Supersé Regist. 1827

THE

GENTLEMAN's
STABLE DIRECTORY;

OR,

Modern Syſtem of Farriery.

VOLUME THE SECOND.

CONTAINING

EXPERIMENTAL REMARKS

UPON

BREEDING, STABLING,
BREAKING, EXERCISE, And
SHOEING, ROWELLING.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

PARTICULAR INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE
GENERAL MANAGEMENT OF

Hunters and Road Horses;

WITH

Concluding OBSERVATIONS upon the preſent
STATE of the TURF.

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INTRODUCTION.

AFTER the many publications upon equeſtrian ſubjects, it may appear to ſome rather extraordinary that matter either *new*, *inſtructive*, or *entertaining*, can be produced to excite the ſerious attention even of thoſe, who are the moſt curious in their particular ſtuds and different appropriations; but ſuch admiration will as readily ſubſide, upon a retroſpective alluſion to the original motives of the various writers, the almoſt unlimited extent of the ſubject, the conſtantly encreaſing eſtimation of the object treated on, and the conſignment to

perpetual

perpetual oblivion of many literary productions, (unfortunately for their authors) so soon as they were brought to the test of public investigation.

The Gentleman's Stable Directory, having by the unprecedented rapidity of its circulation through *ten large editions*, and the acknowledged utility of its instructions; in a great degree superseded former opinions, and established the professional reputation of the writer; it will be hardly considered a mark of presumption, that (under the flattering influence of popularity) the same pen should *once more* aspire to the hope of applause, in his desire to extend the system of management to a degree of consistency hitherto undescribed by any one of the numerous authors, who have preceded us upon the same or similar subjects.

So

So far as HEALTH and CONDITION are preferable to *disease*, so much more desirable must PREVENTION ever prove to the necessity of *cure*. The purport of the present undertaking will, therefore, be found appertaining much more to such parts of stabularian discipline, as come under the distinction of NOVELTY, and not treated on in a *direct way*, than at all applicable to the investigation or cure of disease; unless in occasional allusions or medical references evidently branching from the subject, and tending to corroborate and improve the intentional uniformity of the whole. It being the predominant wish of the writer, to render this publication such kind of collateral appendage to THE STABLE DIRECTORY, as may constitute *in both*, a complete chain of useful and entertaining instruction for the improvement of the species;

cies; their management in *ſickneſs* or *health*, the *field* or *ſtable*, including, under diſtinct heads, ſuch *facts* from *experience* and *inferences* from *nature*, as will, the author is earneſtly induced to hope, procure him the approbation of thoſe, by the ſanction of whoſe extenſive patronage he has been already ſo very highly honoured.

THE

THE

MODERN SYSTEM

OF

FARRIERY.

BREEDING,

FROM its general magnitude, prevalent faſhion, and great utility, is certainly entitled to precede every other ſubject, upon which we ſhall have occaſion to enlarge, in the courſe of the work before us; and will afford ample opportunity to introduce ſuch remarks and inſtructions, as may evidently tend to improve what is now become ſo univerſal, that the world at large, either in *pleaſure*, *agriculture*, or *commerce*, ſeem intereſted in its ſucceſs. Previous to embarkation in ſo extenſive a field for inveſtigation, it may be applicable to obſerve, that whatever *opinions* may be promulgated as matters of *recommendation*, they are not

to be conſidered the deluſive effect of ſpeculative rumination, but the reſult of long perſonal experience and attentive obſervation among horſes in my own poſſeſſion, from brood mares and colts to every deſcription, whether for the *Turf*, *Field*, *Road*, or *Draft*.

Although ſome of the ſubjects upon which we proceed to treat, may have been ſlightly mentioned by writers who have gone before us, it is generally known to have been in ſo ſuperficial and unconnected a way, that little information or inſtruction could be at all gleaned from their endeavours; a few looſe hints upon each having been digreſſively obtruded, or indiſcriminately introduced, amidſt topics to which they did not bear the leaſt alluſion, and from whence concluſions of the ſmalleſt utility could never be drawn.

Theſe errors it has been the principal deſign to correct, by reducing to *diſtinct heads* all ſuch obſervations and remarks as conſtitute the body of the work, and are intended as incentives to general improvement upon the great variety of ſubjects we ſhall endeavour

deavour to contract into one *regular* and *uniform* point of view, with as little reference to, or animadversion upon others, as the nature of such publication will admit.

So much has been said upon the origin, investigation and cure of disease, in our former volume of *The Stable Directory*, that we shall advert as little as possible to medical considerations, unless where from new occasions, or recent discoveries, they become intimately and unavoidably connected with the subject under discussion, as will probably prove the case with some few heads, before we arrive at the goal of our undertaking.

Breeding, though a subject of palpable importance to the improvement of this most useful animal, seems to have received less assistance from literary exertion than any other that has ever attracted the time or attention of those naturalists, who have in *other respects* contributed largely to the advantage and entertainment of the public. This assertion, generally considered, has one striking exception in the peculiar and con-

ſtantly encreaſing circumſpection, to improve (if poſſible) what abſolutely appears to have already reached the very ſummit of perfection: It will be readily conceived I allude to the almoſt incredible care and attention beſtowed upon the breed and management of our *blood horſes* for the turf, at this moment eſteemed equal (if not ſuperior) in *ſpeed, bottom*, and diſcipline to any other in the known world, particularly ſince the faſhionable rage for *Arabians* has ſo gradually declined.

Perſonal emulation amongſt ſome of the firſt characters in the three kingdoms for near a century paſt, (with the moſt unremitting perſeverance and practical experience of the ſubordinate claſſes, upon the advantageous croſſes in *blood, bone, ſhape, make*, and *ſtrength*) has rendered NEWMARKET not only the firſt ſeat of Equeſtrian celebrity, but to a *breeder* and *ſportſman*, one of the moſt enchanting ſcenes the univerſe has to produce. This part of the ſpecies having, under ſuch accumulated power and induſtry, attained the very pinnacle of pre-eminence, nothing can be introduced to breeders

breeders of ſuch nice diſtinction, that will poſſibly add weight, or give force to ſo complete a ſyſtem of unſullied perfection: As it is, however, generally admitted this ſyſtematic knowledge is by no means univerſal, ſuch uſeful remarks and appertaining obſervations will be occaſionally introduced under this head, as will afford uſeful intelligence or inſtruction to thoſe who have commenced breeders, without adverting to the qualifications or advantages abſolutely requiſite for the ſucceſsful management of a breeding ſtud.

Taking leave for the preſent of *blood*, *pedigree*, and *faſhion*, we advert to the very capital breed of real Engliſh hunters, and beautiful draft or carriage horſes, for which the counties of *York*, *Leiceſter*, *Lincoln*, and *Northampton* are ſo deſervedly famous; they are certainly entitled to take the lead of every other county in the kingdom, not more in the care and ſuperiority of their breed, than the conſiſtency of their proceedings to improve it. This preference, ſo generally known and univerſally admitted, will create no ſurpriſe when we recollect

how admirably gifted by nature thoſe counties are with requiſite advantages, that other parts of England have not to boaſt; nor can they, from locality of ſituation, ever obtain.

Situate as the inhabitants are for theſe conveniences, they have conſequently dedicated more time and attention to the improvement of the ſpecies in general, for the purpoſes of emolument, than the natives of moſt other counties, where the attempt (however judiciouſly made) becomes in ſome degree abortive, not only in reſpect to the deceptive expectation of profit, but a certain degeneracy from ſuch *heterogeneous unions* (if I may be allowed the expreſſion) as will be hereafter more clearly explained.

Cuſtoms and opinions upon this ſubject are both local and numerous, notwithſtanding which they are frequently ſubſervient to exigence of circumſtances, and become productive of a propagation calculated for little more than a conſumption of food, without a ſingle prominent or diſtinguiſhing mark of blood, ſtrength, or utility.

There

There are many ſubſtantial reaſons to be adduced, why the breeders of the northern counties exceed all other parts of England, in the *conſiſtency*, *ſtrength*, *faſhion*, and *ſymmetry* of their ſtock; for excluſive of their natural advantages of the moſt luxuriant paſture, and temperate climate for ſuch purpoſe, they are rigidly attentive to every component minutiæ of the whole; not only to the ſhape, make, bone, ſtrength, and uniformity of both *ſire* and *dam*, but likewiſe to hereditary defects, blemiſhes, and deformities, rejecting every probability of *ſtain* or injury, diveſted of the paltry penurious conſiderations by which the conduct of many are regulated, who have been breeding *all their lives*, without the ſatisfaction of having ever *once* had a horſe or mare of figure, faſhion, or value in their poſſeſſion.

This is a fact ſo clearly eſtabliſhed, it will come home to the remembrance of every reader, when taking a *mental* ſurvey of his rural neighbours, amongſt whom he will perfectly recollect ſome *one or more* ſo invincibly attached to the merits of a *blind ſtallion*, or the virtues of his own *ſpider-legged*

mare, that destitute of judgment, and deaf to remonstrance, he ranks *(in imagination)* the produce *a prodigy* even *in embryo*, and proceeds regularly, year after year, encreasing the number, without a single addition to the improvement of the species.

These are the kind of *hypothetical* breeders, (and great plenty there are) who calculate doubly in error, by calculating upon *profit*, without a single contingent reflection upon *loss*; ridiculously supposing a mare in foal, or after delivery, can support her own frame, and that of her offspring, upon *less food* than any other horse or mare in constant work; and begin breeding under an idea that it will be attended with little or no expense: Thus totally inadequate (or indifferent) to the generating of *flesh*, *blood*, and *bone* by the effect of nutrition, they penuriously and inhumanly adopt a kind of temporary poverty, and after a year or two of artificial famine seem greatly surprised, that *air* and *exercise* alone have not produced a colt, or filly, of equal *size*, *strength*, and *perfection*, with those who have omitted no one expense or necessary acquisition, that could in the least contribute

to the formation of points ſo very deſirable, in objects of ſuch tedious expectation, and no little anxiety, before their merits or deficiencies could be at all ſatisfactorily aſcertained. To avoid the accuſation or even ſuſpicion of intentional repetition, the uninformed reader is referred for an inveſtigation of *nutriment*, its proceſs and effects, to Vol. I. of the STABLE DIRECTORY, under the articles of *feeding*, *ſurfeit*, and *mange*, where he may collect every information he can poſſibly require upon the ſubject.

Thoſe who ſucceed beſt, and render the buſineſs of breeding a matter of emolument, are evidently *gentlemen*, *graziers* or *farmers*, who adhere cloſely to the plan of producing a diſtinct ſtock for either the *turf*, *field*, or *draft*, by a direct ſyſtematic union of the requiſite qualifications in both *ſire* and *dam*, without falling into the erroneous opinion of forming an *excellent hunter* from a blood horſe and cart mare; with ſimilar changes eternally ringing by thoſe who fall into the egregrious miſtake, of expecting that an equal partition of qualities from both ſire and dam, will be ſo critically blended, as to

conſtitute

conſtitute a medium *exactly between both*, when every judicious obſerver will be enabled to corroborate the opinion, that the event frequently proves the error and demonſtrates a palpable degeneracy from even the *worſt of the two*.

These are the kinds of connection I have before termed heterogeneous, upon experimental conviction, in ſuch propagation; the natural ſluggiſhneſs and inactivity of the old Engliſh draft horſe, whether it be in *ſire* or *dam*, generally predominates in the offspring, conſtituting an object of diſappointment where ſo much improvement was expected by the croſs. I believe (without adverting to memory) that in a number of years paſt, I may boldly venture to affirm, I could number at leaſt twenty within the extenſive circle of my own acquaintance, who full of expectation, and certain of ſucceſs, (in oppoſition to every perſuaſion) poſitively believed they ſhould produce ſtrong boney hunters of figure, faſhion, ſpeed, and ſtrength in this way, when TIME, the expoſitor of all doubts, has at length reduced the conjecture to a certainty; and after waiting

ing four or five years for the fruit of their expectation to attain perfection, the *prodigy* has been unavoidably doomed to the drudgery of a butcher's tray, or the market cart of some industrious mechanic.

To this description of breeders, who are continually promoting the propagation of the species, without a single consistent idea, or relative consideration to the necessary requisites of *country* and *keep*, or qualifications of *sire* and *dam*, (with an additional prepossession in favour of certain ridiculous crosses) are we indebted for the infinity of horses annually produced in almost every *(improper)* part of the kingdom, that from want of shape, make, bone, size, and strength are of no proportional value to the expense they have occasioned; they can pass under no distinct denomination, are applicable to no particular purpose, but become an expensive burden to the owners, who, too frequently fond of their own production, fix an imaginary value upon their *imperfections*, and year after year permit them to consume food and fodder that might evidently be appropriated

propriated to ſervices of much greater public utility and private emolument.

To the conſtant increaſe of horſes that are of *little or no value* may be attributed, in a collateral degree, the alarming advance in almoſt every neceſſary of life where the indigent and neceſſitous are moſtly intereſted without exception: But as the introduction of minute calculations to demonſtrate the fact, would be digreſſing from the ſubject before us, I ſhall only refer the attention of the curious reader for a moment, to a comparative reflection upon the incredible conſumption of paſturage in ſummer, and corn with hay in winter, that might through *other channels* be much more adapted to the promotion of a general good.

After the remarks hitherto introduced upon the inconſiſtency and very *faſhionable abſurdity*, of even attempting to breed horſes in ſuch parts of the kingdom as are but ill adapted to the purpoſe, whether from the hilly ſtate of the country, the infertility of the ſoil, want of luxuriance in the paſture, or many other concomitant obſtacles, (totally

unattended

unattended to by the parties concerned) it becomes perfectly applicable, to revert once more to the frequent and inconfiderate practice of uniting horfes and mares, with every joint hereditary blemifh or defect that can render the offspring unpromifing; without a fingle perfection (or encouraging ray of expectation) to conftitute a junction of points, poffibly tending in the leaft to form *a produce* even tolerably adequate to the particular purpofe for which it may be intended when at a proper age it is brought into ufe. *Such breeders* feldom pay the leaft attention to *merits*, *tempers*, *vices*, *conftitutional blemifhes*, or hereditary defects of either fire or dam; the grand and leading object is, to obtain a horfe or mare of their "*own breed*:" in that happy thought alone is to confift their perfection, and in fuch expanded idea is buried every juft or relative confideration.

Predominant reafons are by no means wanting to elucidate this ftrange and invincible infatuation; for penury in fome, abfolute inadvertency in others, and palpable indolence in the remaining clafs, effect the annual

annual increaſe to a certainty; the ſame unaccountable prejudice that prompts them to commence breeders without a conſiſtent qualification in *horſe* or *mare*, influences them alſo to reſerve a colt of ſuch breed to perform the office of STALLION, in the vicinity of their own reſidence, that the abſurdity began by themſelves may be perſevered in by others: This *prodigy*, with all his imperfections, is permitted to cover *gratis*, or for a trifling pecuniary conſideration to the ſervant, (as a complete gratification of the owner's ambition in breeding) and proving a local convenience, is readily embraced by the inactive claſſes before deſcribed, while others of more *prudence*, *ſpirit*, *emulation*, or conſiſtency of conduct, will rather ſend a mare fifty miles, and encounter any conſequent expenſe to obtain a horſe whoſe ſhape, make, bone, ſtrength, and action is calculated to correſpond with the dam, promiſing to produce a colt or filly, adequate in figure and value to the purpoſe originally intended.

Notwithſtanding theſe neceſſary precautions, the long ſtanding adage of there being

ing " no one rule without an exception" is ſometimes verified; and this even in the firſt *blood ſtuds* in the kingdom, where the ſtricteſt attention to every conſonant point is ſo rigidly perſevered in, that the leaſt deviation from ſymmetry, ſpeed and perfection could hardly be believed, did not the reſult ſo clearly demonſtrate the frequency of the fact.

Extraordinary as ſuch circumſtance may appear it is certainly true, that many of the moſt capital runners, when they have become ſtallions, ſeldom or ever begot a winner, though the mares have been ſelected with the greateſt care as objects of equal perfection. Theſe remain among the abſtruſe receſſes of nature that will perhaps ever continue unexplained; we may therefore patiently adopt a ſuppoſition as a ſubſtitute for diſcovery, preſuming " ſo far ſhall ye go, and no farther," is all that can be advanced in elucidation of the ſubject.

In corroboration of this well authenticated aſſertion, great numbers might be particularized of the preſent day, where the progeny have degenerated in almoſt every point

point from ſire and dam; but the rapid ſucceſſion of one capital horſe upon another, (ſeaſon after ſeaſon,) would render the names of ſuch as might *now be mentioned* a matter of oblivion to future readers, and prove to them little or nothing of an opinion we wiſh to eſtabliſh beyond the power of contradiction.

So much chance appertains to the act of breeding for the turf, that *one lucky get* very frequently conſtitutes a STALLION of FASHION, to which the rage of future ſeaſons becomes incredibly ſubſervient; innumerable inſtances might be quoted in proof of this ſporting credulity, but we will contract the number to ſuch only as are too eminent in their ſtock ever to be forgotten, ſo long as the pedigrees of "great, great, great, great, great grand dams and grandſires" ſhall be transmitted to poſterity.

It is now within the memory of hundreds upon the turf, that old *Marſk* (a moſt capital runner of his time) covered in Windſor Foreſt and its neighbourhood, a very great number of mares ſo low as half a

guinea

guinea each, but upon the production of ECLIPSE, (a horse whose almost unprecedented qualifications and performances will in all probability never be forgotten) his price was enhanced to fifty guineas, and that only for a certain number in the season, out of which (though much advanced in years) he produced many winners, when the selection of mares became so much in his favour.

Such fluctuation of popularity still depends upon the uncertainty of events, an additional proof of which deserves to be recorded as worthy the attention of sportsmen to whom it is not very generally known, though too well authenticated to admit even a shadow of doubt, and reduces to a certainty the former observation, that CHANCE alone is often entitled to the merit so constantly attributed to *judgment* and *penetration*.

The dam of *Eclipse* having been covered in that season by both SHAKESPEARE and MARSK, it remained a matter of doubt for some days with his late Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland and his stud groom,

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to *which* the colt ſhould be aſcribed; however, the time of the mares bringing forth (during the great Eclipſe) coming neareſt to the day ſhe was booked to have been covered *by Marſk*, to him was attributed the diſtinguiſhed honour of getting one of the firſt horſes in the known world; whoſe ſtrength, power and ſpeed were ſo great, that he with eaſe *double-diſtanced* the moſt capital horſes when running with twelve ſtone for the king's plate, and afterwards *walked over* moſt of the king's plate courſes in the kingdom. The doubt reſpecting his *ſire* having been thus removed, with at leaſt an apparent degree of preciſion, it may naturally be ſuppoſed to have been decided with the ſtricteſt juſtice; but had ſuch doubt ſtill exiſted upon his own pedigree, the *ſuperiority* of his qualifications would have appeared in his produce, he having proved the ſire of a moſt wonderful progeny in *Mercury*, *Meteor*, *Soldier*, *Gunpowder*, *King Fergus*, *Dungannon*, *Bowdrow*, *Jupiter*, *Vertumnus*, and many others too numerous to recite, whoſe blood (in ſo great a variety of branches) will no doubt be

continued

continued with fashionable crosses to the end of time.

It is hardly possible for one little acquainted with the customs and manners of the turf to conceive, how the decision of a single match or sweepstakes alters the properties and value of a stallion, whose reputation is placed (in blood and performance) upon the summit of eminence; for should some of the first of his get that start fortunately become winners, such circumstance instantly enhances his superiority to a degree of enthusiasm, and more business being marked out for him in the act of pro-creation than nature is equal to, his number of mares are consequently limited, and he becomes immediately an object of great annual emolument, several instances having occurred in the last twenty years, where different stallions have produced to their owners five and twenty hundred pounds *in one season*.

But in this state of acknowledged excellence and superiority, they are still subject to the versatility of chance, and one "unlucky step for ever *damns their fame*;"

for two or three of his get being beat at a ſubſequent Newmarket meeting, the victorious ſire ſoon ſuperſedes the favourite, who, falling into the back ground of the picture, glides imperceptibly to an almoſt total oblivion. In ſuch fluctuation or ſucceſſion, ſubmits the fame of an *Herod* to an *Eclipſe*, an *Evergreen* to a *Sweetbriar*, and a very long liſt of etceteras to thoſe reigning favourites of the preſent day *Highflyer* and *Woodpecker*, the former of which having produced thirty-nine winners of ninety-one capital prizes, and the latter ſeventeen winners of fifty-four, both in the year 1789 only, it will create no ſurpriſe that they at preſent enjoy, under the ſunſhine of popular influence, a more extenſive and beautiful *ſeraglio* than any Arabian on earth has ever had to boaſt.

Having ventured a few remarks upon what I before termed exceptions to general rules, or predominant opinions, it becomes perfectly conſiſtent to ſtrengthen a belief of ſuch poſſibilities, by the recital of a direct contraſt within my own knowledge and perfect remembrance, of a galloway that ne-

ver exceeded *thirteen* hands, though got by *Marſk*, (who was a large horſe) out of a full ſized hackney mare in the neighbourhood of Windſor; as well as a very large, boney, handſome uſeful gelding full fifteen hands, out of *a poney mare* under *twelve*, that was bought of a troop of gipſies near Baſingſtoke for a ſingle guinea. An encreaſed liſt of ſuch inſtances might be eaſily formed and equally authenticated; but theſe are ſufficient to encounter the aſſertions of thoſe who *ſeem* firmly to believe the impracticability of obtaining *bone*, *ſize* or *ſtrength*, but from horſes and mares of ſuch ſize and bone only; and although it is certainly right to admit the probability of deviation from ſire and dam in ſuch caſes, yet the minute inveſtigation of cauſes muſt lead us into a field of phyſical reaſoning, and anatomical diſquiſition, that would prove in general reading too remote and extenſive for the ſubject before us.

There are, however, very juſt and fair reaſons to be adduced, why theſe contraſts ſo frequently occur in oppoſition to the eſtabliſhed notions of breeding, without at all

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adverting to an abſtruſe animadverſion upon the "animalculæ in ſemine maſculino," the probable expanſion or contraction of the uterus, the act of generation, the criſis of conception, the formation and growth of the fœtus in embryo, with other relative conſiderations that might very well bear ſerious and ſcientific inveſtigation, were we at all inclined to *perplex* by the introduction of conjectures calculated to promote the learned lucubrations of a certain ſociety, but little to entertain the members of a ſporting club at Newmarket, or to improve the different gradations of their numerous dependents.

The uncertainty of all human expectations being therefore univerſally admitted, and ſuch matters of *opinion only* paſſed over as can never be brought to the deciſive teſt of infallibility; it is natural to conclude (notwithſtanding ſuch caſual deviations) much more may be expected in the produce, from a direct coincidence of parts with an union of ſtrength, ſhape and ſymmetry, than from any improper or convenient connection founded only upon the *local ſituation* of ſire

and

and dam, without a ſingle reference to their different natural blemiſhes, defects, imperfections, or hereditary taints, of which many may be frequently diſcovered by care and the neceſſary circumſpection.

After the introduction of ſuch remarks as evidently tend to conſtitute the neceſſary apology for, and prelude to the undertaking, it will be naturally expected I ſhould revert to inſtructions that become immediately worthy the attention of every young and inexperienced breeder, who feels a deſire to excel in his ſtock from the motive of emulation, amuſement, or emolument. It has been before hinted, that thoſe ſucceed beſt for either, who propagate the different kinds according to the diſtinct ſpecies of each, whether for the *Turf*, *Field*, or *Draft*, without deſcending to the adoption of croſſes in themſelves erroneous and ſeldom productive.

In the preſent enormous price given for horſes of every denomination (univerſally ſaid and believed to be occaſioned by the conſtant and unprecedented exportation of

our moſt valuable Engliſh breed) it is almoſt difficult to decide, which claſs contributes moſt to the profit of the breeder. I cannot, however, in my own opinion, heſitate a moment to pronounce the preference to have fallen upon thoſe that turn the ſooneſt into ſpecie: Of theſe, for inſtance, are the beſt bred *blood ſtock*, now in the higheſt and moſt incredible ſtate of cultivation; the common marketable prices of theſe, if of the firſt pedigrees, and brought to a promiſing ſize *when yearlings*, are one hundred and fifty guineas for *colts*, and one hundred for *fillies*, at which they paſs current, provided they are croſſed in blood from any of the ſtallions whoſe celebrity we have before had occaſion to mention.

Without enlarging upon this ſort of ſporting ſpeculation, I ſhall only obſerve, that under certain regulations and very nice diſtinction, with great care and unremitting attention, this may prove a much more profitable mode of breeding for thoſe who wiſh to aſcertain a fixed emolument, (without hazarding the loſs of a certainty in *breaking*, *training*, *racing*, *&c.)* as is the prudent

practice

practice of the moſt eminent dealer in the kingdom, who is annually accumulating a very conſiderable fortune by the conſtant transfer of equeſtrian property in its infancy, rather than encounter the incredible expence and anxiety of a ſtud in training, the glorious uncertainty of the turf, the unbounded inſolence of the neceſſary dependents, and the *immaculate purity* of thoſe to whom your honour and property muſt be eventually entruſted, as will be more fully explained when the ſubject comes again under conſideration towards the concluſion of the work.

Concluding, therefore, this claſs of breeders, to derive the greateſt pecuniary advantage from their increaſe of ſtock by converting it expeditiouſly into caſh with ſo little trouble, expence, and inconvenience, it is not matter of ſurpriſe that the rage for blood and pedigree ſhould be daily encreaſing, (and likely to continue ſo) though the palpable effect of "*training on and training off*," annually diſſipates and reduces to humiliating indigence ſome of the moſt princely fortunes in this and the neighbouring kingdom

kingdom of Ireland, where the thirſt for equeſtrian pre-eminence is *equal*, if not *ſuperior* to our own.

The breed of horſes moſt profitable to the graziers and breeders of Lincoln, Leiceſter, Northampton, and ſome few other counties, adapted by nature to the purpoſe, are probably the old Engliſh black draft horſes, ſo remarkable for their bone, ſtrength, and hardineſs of conſtitution: Theſe, from their great ſize, beauty, and uniformity, become to every curious obſerver objects of ſingular attraction; their wonderful power in buſineſs renders them in general requeſt, and the breed is cultivated with the ſtricteſt attention to correſponding points and perfections in both ſire and dam, little inferior to the claſs laſt treated on. STALLIONS of eminence in the above counties are eſtimated at very conſiderable ſums, and frequently let out to cover from one hundred to two hundred guineas for the ſeaſon; the ſtock generally come into gentle uſe at two years old, or under, and when brought to a good ſize in proper time, frequently fetch from thirty to fifty guineas at two and three years old.

Thoſe

Thoſe horſes paſſing under the denomination of *hunters*, but more particularly the common croſſes for *roadſters* and *backs*, can by no means prove ſo generally profitable when all contingencies are taken into conſideration; the length of time they are obliged to be kept on hand and maintained, (till at leaſt four years old) with the unfavourable changes they may probably undergo before they can be brought to the ultimate market of emolument moſt applicable to their different qualifications, render the whole a matter of much greater uncertainty than with horſes of the preceding deſcription; for the unavoidable difficulties of cutting, breaking, backing, docking, and nicking, render them ſerious operations, the ſucceſs of which cannot be aſcertained without encountering a chance of misfortune or failure to injure the ſubject, and affect his value.

Notwithſtanding theſe conſiderations are intended for general application, it muſt be remembered they will ever remain ſubject to the different degrees of ſucceſs, ariſing from the variety of circumſtances already explained. Countries (as I have before remarked) differ

differ ſo very much in their ſituation and fertility for breeding, that many will not produce horſes of ſize, and the deſirable qualifications, at even *treble* their *real value*, when brought to the very higheſt market for diſpoſal: For it is a fact indiſputably certain, that nothing but a part of the kingdom remarkable for the abundance and luxuriance of its herbage can ever produce ſtock of ſize and value to render breeding a matter of emolument; the attempt, therefore, in unfavourable ſituations, muſt ever recoil upon the adventurer with additional diſappointment.

Theſe obſervations, ſo immediately relative to the idea of profit and loſs, are by no means introduced to reſtrain or deter thoſe from the practice, who are ſo unavoidably circumſtanced *in ſituation*, as to breed under ſuch diſadvantage from the motive of *amuſement only*, where pecuniary compenſation is no way concerned or expected; it is, however, to be preſumed, that occaſional references to the inſtructions hereafter inculcated, upon an extenſive ſcale for the improvement of ſtock in general (without again

adverting

adverting to the ſuperiority that one part of the country enjoys over another) may contribute more to a gratification of their wiſhes, than to pay an implicit obedience to the effect of chance unaſſiſted by any perſonal effort "to better the example."

Previous to further diſcuſſion of the ſubject before us, it is worthy admiration in how many ways the animal production of the temperate region we enjoy has been enabled to demonſtrate its individual excellence over a ſimilar part of the creation, when tranſported from any other part of the globe. This remark might be juſtified by a very ſlight comparative view of the different animals, whoſe abilities or power (according to their diſtinct qualifications) have been purpoſely placed in competition with others to prove the inferiority; one, however, comes immediately applicable to our preſent deſign. Attempts have been repeatedly made by very ſtrenuous advocates of the firſt eminence and property, to improve the breed of our own nation, by the elaborate introduction and croſs of the moſt celebrated ARABIANS, carefully ſelected under impor-

tant

tant commiſſions, where expenſe and trouble proved only inferior conſiderations: But the trial afforded by *time*, and experience by *obſervation*, have fully ſhewn the improbability of adding to the perfections of the true Engliſh blood horſes by the importation of theirs.

This rage for improvement with a croſs from the blood of Arabia was near half a century paſt very *faſhionably* predominant; but has ſo gradually declined for the laſt twenty years, that they are held in no kind of eſtimation by any ſyſtematic ſportſman or breeder in the kingdom. The original advantage expected in the croſs, was ſome addition *in ſpeed*, even to our fleeteſt mares; this, when obtained, was totally counteracted by a want of *bottom*, for after repeated trials, the moſt exact and diſintereſted, they were found incapable of keeping *their rate* for much more than a mile, and conſequently became of ſo little conſequence to a *racing ſtud*, that a ſhort time will, in all probability, render them of no other utility than to conſtitute part of the retinue in the triumphant return of an *Engliſh Nabob*, or an addition

tion to the *ostrich*, *porcupine*, and *rhinoceros* of some eccentric collector of curiosities.

Bracken has introduced a few judicious remarks upon the subject of breeding, but in his *usual way* so perpetually interspersed with inapplicable stories and strange conclusions, that you are dragged through forty or fifty pages of extraneous and digressive matter to be informed, that "Spanking Roger, belonging to the late Sir Edmund Bacon, was a *round barrelled horse*; "that Mr. William Penry cured his stammering patients of that defect in speech by *purging*;" that "a mare belonging to Mr. T. Makin, of Prescot, in Lancashire, run with her fore feet as wide as *a barn door*, yet she ran as fast as most of her size, which was all owing to bringing in her haunches quick, for *they* "*must needs go when the devil drives*;" that "an old woman can cure a wound as well as a surgeon;" that "physicians may, from their ignorance, be considered a set of *vile pick-pockets*, almost as numerous as the *caterpillars of the law*;" that "he who sails with a *bad wind* had need understand tacking about," with a great number of *curious remarks* equally sublime, and as highly

highly applicable to the ſubject he was treating on; upon which he has introduced no new matter in any direct chain of connection, tending at all to enlighten the topic or improve the management, having literally taken up the buſineſs by way of amuſement, and *laid it* down preciſely where he *found it*.

We might here, with great ſeeming propriety, introduce a long liſt of inſtructions, containing the ſhape, make, bone, ſtrength, with all the variety of points neceſſary (or at leaſt likely) in horſe and mare, to conſtitute a progeny of promiſing perfections; but thoſe requiſites are ſo extenſively and accurately deſcribed between the twelfth and twentieth pages of "The Gentleman's Stable Directory," Vol. I. and muſt be ſo nicely implanted in the mind and memory of almoſt every ſportſman or breeder, that a repetition here might be candidly deemed entirely ſuperfluous, and conſequently render us ſubject to an accuſation we wiſh moſt attentively to avoid

Such deſcription of points and qualifications

cations, ſtanding therefore not only incontroverted, but in poſſeſſion of general acquieſcence, to *thoſe pages* the juvenile or inexperienced enquirer is referred for any additional information he may wiſh to obtain; this reference being juſtified only upon the natural preſumption, that there will be very few purchaſers of the preſent work, but what are holders of the firſt Volume of the Stable Directory likewiſe.

Having there ſo extenſively ſhewn what are the requiſites deſirable to obtain, we now proceed to explain what the defects are moſt neceſſary to be diſcovered in either ſire or dam, that the poſſible retention of *hereditary taints, defects* or *deformities*, may be the better avoided; for although it remains, and in all probability ever will, a matter of ambiguity why an unblemiſhed horſe and mare may produce a colt or filly full of *diſeaſe* or *deformity*, it by no means follows that a diſeaſed or deformed ſire and dam are equally likely to produce a progeny of perfection: This being unequivocally admitted, (as by every impartial inveſtigator of nature it certainly muſt be) it will undoubtedly prove an act of conſiſtency to evade ſo palpable a

chance of disappointment, by forming an union of propriety apparently calculated (from every external appearance) to transmit such original purity to their produce.

To effect this, the mare having been obtained corresponding in size, frame, bone, and strength, with the wish of the breeder, and found upon accurate examination to be perfectly free from the blemishes and defects so frequently mentioned, the choice of a *stallion* becomes the object of serious attention; in him should be accumulated all the points and good qualities it is possible for a single object to possess, upon a proof exceeding all speculation, (and this every observant naturalist will allow) that the produce, whether male or female, much more frequently acquires and retains the shape, make, marks, and disposition of the *sire* than the *dam*; and although such assertion may not obtain immediate credit with many, yet rigid observation has long since demonstrated the fact, and justifies the great consistency of rejecting *stallions* with the least appearance of disease, blemish or bodily defect, indicating even the slightest

ſlighteſt probability of tranſmiſſion to the offspring.

Suppoſing a neighbouring *ſtallion*, and ſuch there generally is in every part of the kingdom, to have great recommendation in his favour, as to the matter of common enquiry and faſhionable figure, it is ſtill neceſſary to deſcend to the minutiæ of ſymmetry in *head*, *neck*, *ſhoulder*, *forehand*, *ribs*, *back*, *loins*, *joints*, and *paſterns*, attending to a ſtrict uniformity in the ſhape, make, and texture of the *very hoofs*, and were it poſſible (which in almoſt every caſe it certainly is not) even to aſcertain the temper and diſpoſition of both ſire and dam, rather than be acceſſary to a procreation of vices or imperfections, that by a more judicious election may be ſo eaſily avoided.

After all that can poſſibly be written (and if it were probable THAT ALL could be univerſally read) upon this ſubject, every reader poſſeſſing the power of free agency has ſtill the privilege to reject any opinion not perfectly coincident with the plan he may have adopted, and to enjoy the uncon-

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trouled right of perſevering in his own deciſion; but preſuming on the taſk I have undertaken, I conſcientiouſly recommend a proper examination to diſcover the ſtate of the *wind*, *ſpavins*, *curbs*, tendency to cracks or *greaſe*, bad conformation of the *feet*, as corns, thruſh, or long and narrow heeled hoofs, either of all which, would furniſh ſufficient foundation to prejudice me againſt him as a *ſire*, however well I might be pleaſed with his other moſt promiſing perfections.

Theſe caſual blemiſhes or hereditary defects being carefully avoided, we come to an enquiry of much greater conſequence, the inattention to which has been productive of more diſappointment and vexation to the before deſcribed claſs of unthinking breeders, than perhaps any other part of their inconſiſtency: Oppoſite opinions will always be the ſupport of two diſtinct claſſes, *the rights and the wrongs*; for while one party aſſerts (from experience and obſervation) the great hazard and certain danger of breeding from a *blind ſtallion*, the other from innate obſtinacy, or affected ſuperiority of penetration, are determined to encounter ſuch indiſcretion upon

upon the heroic basis of "the more danger the more honour," and in the event repentantly discover the want of knowledge and prudence in themselves they so exultingly presume to arraign in doubting the judgment of others.

The introduction of new opinions as mere matter of *speculation*, is a communication of just as much as amounts to *nothing*; such conjectures, without the shew of reason to establish an apparent discovery of the *proof*, would be gaining no ground in the estimation of public opinion, nor laying any just claim to credit for the responsibility of our assertions. Luckily however for the support of the subject before us, *accumulated proofs* are by no means wanting (even within the pale of my own personal experience and conviction) to counteract opposite opinions, whether imbibed from prejudice, obstinacy, or ignorance.

Adverting again to what I so lately admitted, the *possibility* of sound sires and mares producing a defective progeny, and, *vice versa*, that *blind stallions* may sometimes get colts

 with

with good eyes; yet the chance, or rather imprudence, of breeding from ſuch had much better be avoided; as the incontrovertible evidence I ſhall introduce, upon the folly of embarking in ſuch an expedition, (where the odds are entirely againſt the adventurer, without a ſingle point in his favour) muſt prove exactly ſimilar to playing at *hazard* with *falſe dice*, where you may *eternally* loſe, but never can riſe a *winner*.

It is likely theſe conſiderations may want proper weight with thoſe who diſplay a contemptuous ſmile of diſbelief at the very idea of tranſmitting hereditary blemiſhes or defects from ſire to ſon, as the reſult of Cynical oppoſition to the *more rational* ſyſtem they adopt of annually breeding under every poſſible diſadvantage, in confirmation of their inexperience: I ſhall therefore recommend to their *incredulity* a few inſtances, confirming as *facts*, what may have been hitherto conſidered matters of doubt, without the leaſt criterion for general deciſion.

The firſt opportunity I could avail myſelf of, to juſtify or render nugatory my opinion of the

the impropriety and danger of breeding from horſes of this deſcription, was in the year 1773 or 1774, when a great number of mares in that neighbourhood had been covered by a very popular "*blind ſtallion*," (for that was really the appellation under which he paſſed) of the Hon. T. King's, near Ripley, in Surrey, whoſe pedigree, ſhape, make, figure, and qualifications were ſo effectually faſcinating with the multitude, that the want of *eyes* did not ſeem at all to impede the daily progreſs of his procreation. The infection of faſhion was then (and ever will be) as predominant as at preſent, for the ſlaves to that *gew-gaw* continued to bring their mares in unremitting rotation, and never diſcovered their own *want of ſight*, or common comprehenſion, till the *third* or *fourth* year, when the major part of the produce became as *blind* as the ſire.

Still anxious to aſcertain to ſome ſtate of certainty, an object of ſo much conſequence (not only to the ſporting people, but the world at large) as the hereditary tranſmiſſion of this defect, I was conſtantly upon the watch to enlarge my enquiries to ſome de-

gree of ſatisfaction; I remained, however, without any thing perfectly concluſive till the ſpring of the year 1780, when a grey horſe called *Jerry Sneak*, (that had proved a tolerable runner, in the poſſeſſion of Lord Spencer Hamilton) coming into my hands upon very eaſy terms juſt as his eyes were failing, I covered a few mares, *gratis*, with him in the neighbourhood of *Frimley* near *Bagſhot*, which having made memorandum of with a deſign to purchaſe any of the produce that appeared tolerably promiſing, and making my excurſion through the different pariſhes to obtain from the parties the neceſſary information, I found in the *fourth year* many of the produce *totally blind* and the remainder nearly ſo without exception.

Facts (it is univerſally admitted) are ſtubborn things, and to the eſtabliſhment of *this fact* I have been anxiouſly labouring as to the acquiſition of individual emolument, though I have ever conſidered it a promotion of general good, in which the community is ſo much intereſted, that it would be an abſolute want of philanthropy to conceal

ceal whatever could in the leaſt tend to an additional diſcovery upon the ſubject.

It is not the purport of the preſent work (nor is it at all applicable to the purpoſe) to enter into phyſical reſearches, leading the reader through a long chain of philoſophical diſquiſition upon LEWENHOCK'S microſcopic inveſtigation of the *animalculæ* contained in the *ſemen* of animals, founding upon ſuch enquiry a thouſand conjectures reſpecting this abſtruſe proceſs of nature, that may very much perplex the mind, but can neither tend to entertain or improve the judgment.

Of as little conſequence or advantage it muſt certainly prove, to attempt any exact deciſion by what nice and undiſcovered operation in the animal ſyſtem, a horſe is rendered firſt *partially*, then *totally* blind by too frequent or hard racing; as well as the very common occurrence of a ſtallion's becoming equally ſo by too conſtant and repeated *covering*, though the act itſelf is a ſpontaneous effort of nature.

However

However difficult it may be to furniſh an opinion applicable to *every idea*, I believe with the ſcientific inveſtigator there need be little ſcruple to hazard a profeſſional deſcription, by what means ſo ſerious a revolution in the frame is effected; for the *brain* being the very baſis of the nervous ſyſtem, and the *nerves* the acknowledged ſeat of *pain* and *pleaſure*, any exquiſite or preternatural extreme in either may be productive of great debilitation, and the *optic nerves* being neareſt the *origin*, may become more ſenſibly affected in a *paralytic* or ſome other degree, than any ſubſequent pair, and the ſight gradually decline from a partial viſion to total blindneſs.

For the honor of human nature, I can but moſt earneſtly wiſh the applicable introduction of theſe remarks may induce the parties intereſted in the event, to be in future a little leſs ſtrenuous in their different exertions, whether for credit or emolument; the firſt never to diſtreſs one of the nobleſt animals on earth, by thoſe frequent and ſevere runnings that evidently exhauſt nature to ſuch a ſtate of mortification; or the latter in the truly contemptible method of letting a horſe

cover

cover ſuch an infinity of mares, as not uncommonly terminates in the irretrievable loſs of his eyes, but the inevitable loſs of his reputation alſo, as "*a certain foal-getter;*" for the great number of mares covered by him *without produce,* brings his character the folling ſeaſon into diſrepute, ſhould even the ſtate of his bodily ſtrength, conſtitution or chance, preſerve his eyes from the great probability of annihilation: This remark appertaining only, to the owners of ſtallions who attend the markets of different towns every day in the week during the whole ſeaſon, excluſive of the additional portion of buſineſs in their own neighbourhood on the *Sunday morning.*

Of theſe there are ſo great a number, and in their performance ſo general a failure, that it is abſolutely wonderful how ſo many can become dupes to the cuſtomary infatuation, of leading a mare to any market town, to be ſerved by a horſe who is continually covering from four or five, to eight or ten mares in every twenty-four hours during the ſeaſon; with the additional conſideration, that theſe *extra exertions* are moſt frequently made

made under the CORRUPT INFLUENCE of *ſtimulants*, *provocatives*, and *cordials* adapted to the purpoſe, and ſuppoſed to act with the ſame excitement as *cantharides* upon the human body. Incredible as it may appear, (to thoſe whoſe ſituation in life has rendered them little ſubject to diſcoveries of this kind) I have been repeatedly called upon in my profeſſional department, to diſpenſe large quantities of *this very article* to many of thoſe who travel the country with ſtallions of ſuch denomination; firſt obtaining from them a communication of the uſe it was intended for before they were entruſted with it, upon an experimental conviction of its danger; having in the courſe of my private medical practice known one life loſt, and another miraculouſly ſaved, where it had been given under the denomination of *love powder* for the unfair gratification of the worſt of purpoſes.

Without entering again upon the act of generation, the ſemen, or animalculæ contained in it as before adverted to, can any intelligent reader, to whoſe deliberate attention theſe pages may become ſubject, be at

all

all ſurpriſed, that in ſuch a conſtrained and proſtituted ſtate of NATURE, ſo few of her attempts ſhould be productive of ſucceſs ? . . . Here we might be readily induced to enter another large field for ſcientific diſquiſition; but as it would evidently extend not only beyond the preſent purpoſe, but prove "*cavier to the multitude*," our inferior claſs of readers might occaſionally exclaim with MUNGO in the PADLOCK, "What ſignify *me read*, if me *no underſtand!*"

Avoiding, therefore, the indifference in general ſhewn to remote medical explanation, and dull anatomical deſcriptive, I come directly to a queſtion founded in reaſon, upon the merits of which the intereſted part of the world will be enabled to decide, at leaſt ſo far as correſponds with their own opinions upon the ſubject. Can it be poſſibly believed or expected (but by the moſt illiterate, who, in fact, poſſeſs the groſs comforts of life *only*, and never enjoy the ſublime gratification of *thinking*,) that horſes thus eternally jaded and harraſſed, not only with the diurnal routine of copulation, but the inceſſant fatigue of travelling perpetually, can be at all equal to the Herculean taſk aſſigned them?

Can

Can it be matter of ſurpriſe, that not more than one-third, or, upon a more favourable computation, *one half at moſt*, of the mares covered in this way produce a colt, and that the half of thoſe ſo produced, never come to a proper ſize, bone, or ſtrength; then can there remain a doubt in the mind of any unprejudiced man living, but to theſe cauſes may be attributed ſome portion of that deficiency ſo generally complained of, and too frequently attributed to the *want of bone* in ſire or dam?

Having hitherto introduced what I conceive to be the leading qualifications in horſe and mare, to render the buſineſs of breeding pleaſant and advantageous, we come next to conſider the ſeaſon moſt proper for bringing them together; as it muſt be admitted, an inconvenience will certainly ariſe to the *mare* by foaling too early in the ſpring, or to the *produce* by falling too late in the ſummer, it will undoubtedly prove more eligible to adhere a little to the line of mediocrity, letting either extreme be carefully avoided.

Never-

Neverthelefs, it muft be underftood, this circumftance can by no means be altogether univerfal, as it depends in fome meafure upon the country and fituation; the pafturage being of different ftates in different counties, and dependent upon the fertility of foil as well as the temperature of climate, the feafon is confequently forwarder, at leaft the herbage, (by a fortnight or three weeks) in one part of the kingdom than another, a circumftance that fhould always be properly attended to by the parties concerned.

It will therefore prove perfectly confiftent in all counties, however they may be fituated, to have the produce and pafture appearing at the fame time as nearly as fluctuating or unavoidable circumftances will allow; for when mares are permitted to take the horfe too foon in the feafon, they bring forth before there is fufficient grafs for their fupport, and being neceffarily affifted with dry food, the lacteals (or milk veffels), for want of gradual fupply and expanfion, become contracted; the very fharp winds early in the fpring, with a reftraint in food, fometimes fo ftints the colt, (particularly, fhould a

wet

wet unfavourable ſummer and ſevere winter follow) that he never reaches a proper ſize in growth, but diſplays the diſadvantage of his earlieſt ſtate when arrived at maturity.

It is no uncommon thing in different parts of the country, to obſerve mares that have dropped their foals early, (before there is a blade of graſs for their ſupport) placed in a rick yard, where, by inceſſantly *tugging* out a *ſcanty living*, it is ridiculouſly believed both mare and colt are indulging moſt luxuriouſly, though the direct contrary is really the caſe; hay may undoubtedly (if adminiſtered in due ſupplies) contribute a ſufficiency of ſupport for the mare, but is not calculated to yield, even in almoſt conſtant maſtication, any great nutritious ſuperflux for the ſubſiſtence and deſirable improvement of the colt. As there is a very great difference in the nutritive qualities of food ſo is there a very material difference in the milk it produces; indifferent or ſparing aliment will certainly produce a thin aqueous impoveriſhed milk, of quality and in quantity to ſuſtain and barely ſubſiſt nature, but by no means to give it *ſtrength*, *vigour*, *growth*,

growth, or the formation of fleſh and *bone* ſo generally deſirable.

However haſtily ſome part of the world may be inclined to decide, (as every obſerver has a right to indulge his own opinion) there can be no doubt but to the inconſiderate practice of inadvertently leaving mares and colts to ſubſiſt upon *bare land*, or barren paſtures, for the firſt ſummer, and a ſucceſſive ſcene of poverty in the enſuing winter, are we in ſome degree indebted for a proportion of thoſe horſes I have before deſcribed, as coming under no denomination, applicable to no particular purpoſe, never riſing to any conſiderable worth, and doing ſo little credit to the breeder, that you can never diſcover (if you were ſo inclined) from whence they came, after they are once out of his poſſeſſion.

In this miſtaken notion and ridiculous ſyſtem of breeding, fails every *penurious* and *mercenary* breeder, who, prompted by their own narrowneſs of diſpoſition, affect to believe, there is little or no difference between *filling* and *feeding*, conſidering a run *after*

the cows as good as a *run with them*; that *chaff* is a much more *profitable* and healthy food than *oats*, and that an open farm-yard with a crib of barley or oat ſtraw, during the ſevere froſt and ſnow of a long dreary winter, are preferable to all other accommodations of food and ſhelter, as (to make uſe of their own juſtification) they are then in the moſt proper ſtate, "*a ſtate of nature*." Theſe are the *perſuaſive motives* aſſigned alſo by thoſe ſtrenuous advocates for general improvement, who barely ſubſiſt their mares during the tedious months of geſtation, under an idea perfectly coincident with the principles juſt deſcribed, that a mare after having been covered, requires but "*little or no keep*," as (with ſuch contemptible ſpeculators) the *act itſelf* is ridiculouſly ſuppoſed to make the mare *fat*. This is the invariable opinion among the leſs enlightened claſs of ruſtics, and though the act and its conſequence may be juſtly ſaid to make the mare *big*, yet the original remark is certainly too ludicrous for ſerious conſideration.

After the neceſſary introduction of ſuch obſervations as are evidently connected with, and

and branch directly from the ſubject, we return to the time beſt adapted by nature and the ſeaſon to the foaling of the mare. A few words having been already interpoſed upon the inconvenience of dropping her foal *too early*, ſomething conſequently appertains to its falling *too late*; this ſhould never happen when the year is too far advanced, as the *produce* then has to encounter hourly encreaſing difficulties, the daily declination of the genial ſun, the decaying ſtate of the verdure, the impending rains, bleak winds, long nights, foggy days, and the lank weak graſs, form ſo ſtrong a combination againſt improvement, (particularly if the winter ſhould prove an additional ſtroke of ſeverity) that the colt frequently feels the diſadvantage and conſtantly diſplays it by the deficiencies in frame and figure as before deſcribed.

Taking however the variation of different counties into the aggregate, to fix a criterion of time applicable to all parts, I ſhould not heſitate a moment to pronounce the laſt week in April, and the three firſt in May, the moſt proper month in the year for mares to take the horſe, provided it can be by any means

effected; to promote which, the following methods should be adopted: It is generally perceptible when a mare is *horsing*, and it is likewise universally known she will then take the horse without farther trouble, *mutual consent* therefore renders animadversion unnecessary; but should the mare upon being brought to the horse, not make any *shew*, on the contrary give proofs of denial by repeated kicking and other violent exertions, let her (after sufficient *trials*) be taken away, and some addition be made to her keep; give her a substantial feed of good oats and a pint of old beans twice a day, continuing to offer her the horse once in three days till a compliance is effected.

After which it will be necessary to offer her the horse at the expiration of eight days (that is on the *ninth*) from the day of her having been covered; if she again take the horse (which is not at all uncommon) you reckon from the last time of covering, upon a supposition no conception took place from the first copulation, and that it is consequently obliterated. On the contrary, should she after *repeated offers*, persevere in rejecting the horse,

horſe, the firſt covering is then ſuppoſed to have been effectual; notwithſtanding which, the mare, *in either caſe*, is to be produced and tried with the horſe at the end of a *ſecond eight* days, when circumſtances muſt be regulated as at the end of the firſt, entirely by her compliance or rejection.

Sentiments have varied exceedingly, upon the little probability of a mares conceiving when the act of copulation has been forcibly committed, without the leaſt external diſplay of deſire, and in oppoſition to the moſt violent exertions of the mare. However my opinion might have originally fluctuated with the various repreſentations of others upon this ſubject, I availed myſelf of an early opportunity to aſcertain the fact, and remove any doubts that may have ariſen within my own mind, although the recital will not perhaps render a repetition of the trial equally ſucceſsful in the opinion of others; yet I have been ſince repeatedly informed, the experiment is very frequently made, and not without its ſhare of ſucceſs.

In the year 1773, (reſiding then at Hor-

ſel, near Chobham, in Surrey,) I intended covering two mares by *Woodcock*, half brother to Eclipſe, that then remained at Egham, for the ſeaſon; one of the mares took the horſe without reluctance, the other rejected him with the greateſt violence; at the expiration of time before-mentioned, they were again offered the horſe and *both refuſed*. On the ninth day, I made the ſame journey with the ſame ſucceſs, and then concluded the mare that had been covered to be perfectly ſafe; determined, however, to make no more journies of *uncertainty* upon the buſineſs, I aſked TOWNSEND, the owner of the horſe, if he had any objection to let the horſe cover the mare compulſively, upon condition ſhe was ſo completely trammeled as not to injure the horſe? This being readily agreed to on his part, and the mare *ſtrongly hobbled*, the horſe was brought out, and being luckily very freſh, full of vigour, and eager as ſhe was reluctant, the *leap* was obtained with much leſs difficulty than could be poſſibly expected: At the end of the eight days I again attended with the mare, and found ſhe rejected the horſe with more inveteracy than in any of my former journies.

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I now made up my mind to take no more trouble in the buſineſs, but leave the reſt to chance; in a very few months ſhe was viſibly in foal, and produced me an exceeding handſome colt that I diſpoſed of at a high price to a gentleman in Norfolk, when riſing two years old.

This circumſtance I have related, to eſtabliſh by proof the conſiſtency of adopting the *alternative*, when the ſeaſon is ſo far advanced as to hazard the loſs of the year by longer delay; for my own part, (and it is clear I ſpeak experimentally) I ſhould never heſitate to cover a mare in this way, if ſhe continued to refuſe the horſe till the laſt week in *May*, or the firſt week in *June*, much rather chuſing to *raviſh* the maſk of delicacy from her diſpoſition, than loſe her contribution to the ſtock for that year, or have a colt fall ſix weeks or two months too late in the ſeaſon.

It will become perfectly applicable here, to introduce a few words reſpecting the *exact period* of geſtation in mares, upon which I never remember to have heard or read, any thing

dictatorially decisive more than the general assertion of their going *eleven months* (or the common witticism, that "a hare and a mare go a *twelvemonth*"): But whether it is understood eleven *lunar* or *calendar* months, I believe has never been critically explained, (at least generally known) and this is in fact the more extraordinary when we recollect that *eleven* calendar months make within two days of *twelve* of the *other*; nor indeed are there but few instances, in which the knowledge of such nice distinction can be productive of much utility, yet it creates some surprise that it has not been particularly noticed by successive naturalists, as circumstances have arisen and may sometimes happen, where such precision would effectually remove a doubt or establish a fact.

A want of early attention to a discovery of this minutiæ was attended with a trifling loss to me some years since in my first breeding embarkation, when in possession of much less observation and experience; for having obtained the loan of a strong boney mare from a friend in Windsor Great Park, for the purpose of breeding, I had her covered by a large powerful

powerful horſe then in the neighbourhood, and booked *the leap* according to cuſtom; but having made no calculation of the calendar months, I kept her eleven lunar months and a fortnight (by the almanack) and not perceiving her to *ſpring in the udder*, nor grow larger in the carcaſe, I returned her (after taking the opinion of almoſt every farmer and breeder in the country) upon a univerſal deciſion, that "ſhe had no foal within her." The ultimate event proved *for once* the error of general judgment, for the owner (Mr. Johnſon, then one of the keepers of the Great Park) taking a morning's walk among his ſtock, found her with a fine colt foal at her foot in about ten days after her return, which proved a valuable horſe to him at five years old, that I had loſt entirely by my inadvertency and impatience.

The mare having taken the horſe but *once*, and that under my own eye (a truſt I never delegated to another) added to the ſtricteſt attention, in point of time, formed a combination to give proof, that a mare carries her young twelve *lunar* or eleven *calendar* months,

months, (which accurately taken are juſt the ſame) or that the exact given time varies in different ſubjects, and is ſo regulated by age or conſtitution, that there has yet been no criterion fixed for a nice diſtinction. The matter, however, if at all entitled to conſideration, may be moſt eaſily reduced to a certainty, by any gentleman having a variety of brood mares in his poſſeſſion, who will *note* thoſe that have taken the horſe but *once* in the ſeaſon, and take the trouble to book the day of their bringing forth; when by comparing *the whole*, the exact time of geſtation will be nearly demonſtrated, where no ſecond covering has intervened to render the deciſion imperfect.

The treatment of mares after being covered is regulated entirely by the claſs to which they belong; for having twice refuſed the horſe at the periods of time before ſtated, they are then ſaid to be *ſtinted*, and concluded in *foal*. But this is by no means always the caſe, for it frequently happens that ſuch mares produce no foals, although appearances are ſo much in their favour. *Thorough bred* mares (that is, mares whoſe blood is entirely un-

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tainted with any inferior crofs, and kept as brood mares for the turf only) are thrown out to grafs for the fummer feafon without farther confideration; only taking particular care that no geldings (or yearling colts) are fuffered to accompany them in or near the fame pafture, for fome few weeks after conception.

Mares of an inferior defcription in general ufe for the faddle, or thofe for agriculture, may be continued in their common employment with moderation, they feldom fuffer abortion but by great and improper exertions; they are therefore very frequently ufed till within a few weeks of dropping their burthen without the leaft fear of inconvenience. This is a fact fo univerfally eftablifhed, that inftances have repeatedly happened of mares obtaining *ftolen leaps* when out at pafture, without the knowledge and very much againft the inclination of the owners; this circumftance, from various motives, has been confidered fo prejudicial, (where breeding has not been intended) that different and powerful methods have been adopted, as the adminiftration of *favine* in large quantities, violent exertions

ertions in drawing, or long and very ſpeedy journies taken to promote abortion, and thoſe without the leaſt effect; to corroborate which, the introduction of one only becomes at all neceſſary, as it is too well authenticated to admit a doubt of its certainty.

Some few years ſince SULPHUR, a well known running horſe of the Duke of Cumberland's, having leaped the paddock paling of an immenſe height in Windſor Park, covered a hunting mare of Mr. Jephs's (then reſident at Sandpit Gate) in the ſight of many labourers, who reported the occurrence. As hunting ſeaſon approached ſhe was perceptibly in foal; this was what he by no means wiſhed, and was ſo much hurt at the awkwardneſs of the circumſtance, that he continued to hunt her inceſſantly, covering the *ſtrongeſt leaps* and taking the deepeſt ground to obtain *abortion.*

The event however ſufficiently proved the *folly* (not to add cruelty or preſumption) of oppoſing nature in her niceſt operations; for all the ſeverity ſo inconſiderately put in practice, never in the leaſt hurt the mare, or debilitated

bilitated the fœtus: at her proper time ſhe produced *a foal*, that (to render the circumſtance more remarkable) at five years old won the *fifty pound plate* annually given for the keepers and yeoman prickers to be run for over Aſcot.

This invincible ſtamina or hardineſs of conſtitution ſo worthy recital in this inſtance, is not (let it be underſtood) ſo entirely general as to be applicable to all the claſs without exception; it therefore becomes perfectly in point to introduce a caſe in direct contraſt, that may be likewiſe productive of utility, in preventing too great exertions with mares in ſuch ſtate, under a firm opinion that the loſs is leſs likely to happen than it really is and actually may.

Having about ſeven years ſince purchaſed of the breeder at *Horton* in *Buckinghamſhire*, a four year old mare got by *Bell's Denmark*, I obſerved to him (during the negociation for purchaſe) that from the depth of her carcaſe and hollowneſs of the flank, ſhe was certainly early in foal; on the contrary, he aſſured me, poſitively, no horſe had ever been near her,

her, and that it was merely the effect of laying at grafs. This mare, though fo young, was a very excellent trotter; and having foon after occafion to take a profeffional journey with fome expedition, (the road being exceedingly good) I made obfervation by my watch that fhe trotted the *feven miles* in five and thirty minutes without the leaft *feeming* inconvenience; but on the morning following I found fhe had *flipped* a colt foal very perfect of about three months conception, though no extraordinary exertions were ufed on the occafion.

The recital of cafes fo exactly in point lay claim to the attention of breeders in general, as they undoubtedly conftitute a bafis in experience, upon which the judgment may be difcretionally formed at what time it will be proper to difcontinue the working of fuch mares, when it is clearly afcertained how flight a portion of labour may endanger the dam, and prove deftructive to the progeny.

The neceffary qualifications for pro-creation in both fire and dam having been fully inveftigated, and the blemifhes, defects, and local contingencies, that tend to forbid the attempt

fairly

fairly explained, we come now to the crisis of delivery, or the mares bringing forth; an event so wonderfully accomplished by the almost unerring efforts of NATURE, that upon the fairest calculation, not one mare in a hundred suffers in any respect (more than the temporary disquietude) from an exertion of so much magnitude, although in the moments of reflection it absolutely becomes a matter of admiration how the shock is sustained, without a much greater frequency of the danger that so seldom ensues.

Notwithstanding this providential interposition for the safety of animals so little enabled to relieve themselves, it is worthy remark, that where difficulty and danger once occur, the case becoming preternatural, it generally terminates in the death of one or the other, and not uncommonly in the destruction of both; this may probably proceed from the construction of parts not being generally understood, and the little chance of assisting nature with the same ease and accuracy as some other parts of the creation.

A loss of this description, after a year or

more

more of tedious hope and expectation, consequently produces temporary gloom and serious disappointment; in some instances the dam becomes the victim, in others the foal; to the latter there is no palliative, to the former but one alternative: It is a custom almost universal upon the death of the mare (soon after relief from her burthen) to despair of success in raising the foal by art, and it is frequently disposed of without delay, that a circumstance so unlucky may be the sooner erased from memory and buried in oblivion.

This hasty decision is by no means to be commended, although it is almost generally known the power of instinct is so very predominant in this species, that it must be a fact exceedingly rare, to find a mare that will, by whatever stratagem you can put in force, cherish any other foal than her own; this most undoubtedly arises from their seldom or ever producing a plurality of young at *one time*; a circumstance by no means uncommon with almost every other animal in the creation, who are the more easily imposed upon to nourish and protect a spurious offspring.

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The general despondency before-mentioned respecting the survivor, is not to be justified where the foal is of value adequate to the trouble; nor indeed to be neglected upon the score of *humanity*, when unremitting industry and perseverance can so readily furnish an artificial substitute for maternal care and nutrition. It may be naturally concluded I allude to the great probability (and in some cases certainty) of bringing the foal up *by hand*; a remarkable instance of which becomes immediately applicable, in the perfect recollection of a horse bred by his late Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, that at his death became the property of the celebrated Captain O'Kelly, and in the successive possession of both, for a series of years, won more *give and take* plates than any other horse in the kingdom.

The fact was exactly thus: The colt being the first foal of a young mare that had been taken into the brood stud without training, upon the produce of which his Royal Highness had formed great expectations, it proved matter of much surprise and disappointment (being totally repugnant to the reciprocal affection in

 nature)

nature) that ſo ſoon as the colt had fallen, the mare abſolutely *took fright* at her own offspring, and never could be once brought to the leaſt aſſociation with it whatever. Every ſtratagem that could be deviſed was put into practice under the immediate inſpection of his Royal Highneſs, to effect a natural union between the dam and her foal, but without the leaſt probability of ſucceſs; thoſe fruitleſs efforts were therefore relinquiſhed, and alternate attempts made to render the abandoned orphan a ſon of adoption, with different mares in rotation, but with no proſpect even of hope. In this dilemma the Duke, whoſe humanity in matters of much greater importance will ſtand recorded to the end of time, fully intent upon preſerving the colt if poſſible, (with a *declared* pre-ſentiment of his future eminence) determined upon his being brought up *by hand if poſſible*, without a relative conſideration to trouble or expence, and iſſued his orders accordingly. The event juſtified the endeavour, and the ſucceſs of the undertaking was tranſmitted to poſterity by the Royal Sponſor, with the name of the horſe; for under the appellation of MILKSOP, his very capital performances may be found in the

the "*Racing Calendar,*" ſo long as it ſhall retain a place in the ſporting libraries.

Circumſtances of this kind happen, however, ſo very rarely, that inſtructions reſpecting caſualities remote and unlikely, might be deemed ſuperfluous, did not a vindication immediately ariſe from the exulting conſolation, of knowing by what means to encounter ſuch difficulties whenever they occur.

Returning therefore to the act of foaling, which, as before obſerved, *generally happens* without the leaſt danger or difficulty, and nine times out of ten in the night, it becomes the buſineſs of the owner or ſuperintendant to diſpoſe the mare in ſuch place of ſafety, that miſchief is at leaſt *not likely* to enſue; and this caution may prove the more acceptable, when it is recollected by every breeder, ſportſman, or reſident in the country, how very common it is in the ſeaſon to hear of foals being *ſmothered* in a ditch, or *drowned* in a rivulet, to the *poſſibility of which*, the attention of the inadvertent owner had never been e-

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ven for a moment directed. It is likewiſe by no means inapplicable to obſerve, that for ſome days previous to the expected foaling of the mare, ſhe ſhould be kept in rather a ſparing than plentiful ſituation; to prevent a too great repletion of the inteſtines and conſequent compreſſion upon the uterus, producing extreme pain, difficulty and delay in the delivery, which might otherwiſe never occur.

The mare having (as is generally the caſe) been freed from her burthen without inconvenience, and no circumſtance ariſing to forbid it, let her be immediately removed to a healthy and luxuriant paſture, calculated to furniſh not only a ſufficiency of ſupport for her own frame, but affording a ſuperflux for the ſubſtantial and nutritious ſupport of her young. In this a proper diſcrimination is abſolutely neceſſary; lank, ſwampy, ſour graſs will certainly expand the frame, ſubſiſt the dam, and contribute a flow of milk for the foal; but not of that rich and luxurious quality that is derived from feeding upon the ſucculent herbage of maiden meadows, or upland graſs in high perfection;

fection; both which contribute so very much to the daily growth and improvement of the colt, that it is a matter of the utmost consequence to the breeder, whose principal object should be to attain every possible advantage in *height*, *bone*, and *condition*, previous to the commencement of severe weather, during which growth is in general suspended, unless liberally promoted by the salutary interposition of good food, and proper shelter to encounter the inclemency of the season.

This is the first step to be taken where no disagreeable traits intervene to require a different mode of treatment; but should the mare (by foaling before her time, or in severe sharp winds, a cold wet night, long and painful delivery, or other circumstances too abstruse to be discovered) visibly labour under *fixed dejection*, *bodily languor*, *loss of appetite*, laying down as if painfully weary, and totally inattentive to the infantile fondness of her foal; it may be justly presumed, nature has sustained a severe shock from some one of the causes just recited, that cannot be too soon attended to and coun-

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teracted, for the prevention of more diſtreſſing conſequences.

Fate is in general rapidly deciſive in caſes of this complexion, therefore delay (under any pretence whatever) may prove not only dangerous but deſtructive; the mare upon ſuch diſcovery ſhould be immediately removed, with her foal, to a ſtill and comfortable ſituation, as a large open ſtable, cloſe cow-houſe, or bay of a barn, where ſhe ſhould be expeditiouſly ſupplied with ſuch articles as invigorate the ſyſtem, encreaſe the circulation, and recruit exhauſted nature About a gallon of water made warm and impregnated with a portion of bran or oatmeal, may be directly given to allay the thirſt which pain, fatigue, or diſquietude never fails to excite, as well as to form a kind of ſubſtitute during the preparation of a plentiful maſh of malt, oats, and bran, equal parts, into which ſhould be ſtirred ſix ounces of honey; this being given to the mare, of conſiſtent warmth, will not only gently ſtimulate the debilitated powers and gradually aſſiſt the ſtrength, but promote an early flow of milk (for the gratification

fication of the expectant foal) which is always in ſome degree obſtructed, if not totally ſuppreſſed, by the leaſt indiſpoſition of the dam.

The maſh may be repeated twice every day, with plenty of the beſt hay, and occaſional ſupplies of the water before-mentioned, till her recovery is ſufficiently eſtabliſhed, and the weather proportionably calm for her enlargement, in the way above deſcribed, had no difficulty intervened. Should the ſame laſſitude and dejection continue more than four and twenty hours after theſe methods have been adopted, bring into immediate uſe a dozen of the cordial pectoral balls from "The Gentleman's Stable Directory, Vol. I." and let one be given every night and morning in its prepared ſtate, or diſſolved in half a pint of gruel, and adminiſtered as a drink, or incorporated with each maſh at the ſtated periods till the whole are taken; continuing the aids of *maſhes, warm water, nurſing*, and *cloathing*, (if ſymptoms of great cold appear) till every appearance of com-

plaint is removed, and nature perfectly restored.

Some mares, whether from a rigidity of the vessels in not having their first foals till an advanced age, slight colds that obstruct the secretions, or whatever cause unassigned, are very deficient in a necessary flow of milk, by which means the foal is deprived of perhaps half the sustenance requisite for his support and expected improvement: This is a matter well worthy minute inspection for the first three or four days after foaling, by which time the food should be perfectly assimilated, the lacteals expanded, and an ample secretion furnished for the *full feed* of the foal. This not being the case, such deficiency should be very early discovered, and as eagerly assisted when known.

The richest and most luxuriant pasture that can be obtained, with good soft water at will, is the first and best natural step to remove such obstruction in its infancy; *that*, upon observation, not succeeding in the desired degree, and the

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colt becoming perceptibly *ſtinted* (which may be plainly perceived not only by his external appearance, but inceſſant attempts to obtain ſupplies without ſucceſs) artificial means muſt be adopted to ſolicit a due diſcharge of this very neceſſary fluid, without which every expectation of the foal's growth and gradual improvement muſt be rendered abortive.

This object can only be accompliſhed by enlarging the mode and encreaſing the means of conveying a larger portion of more nutritious aliment into the ſyſtem; from the general diffuſion of which, the lymphatics and lacteals become proportionally diſtended and are conſequently enabled to ſecrete and diſcharge, a much greater quantity than nature in her more reluctant ſtate ſeems inclined to beſtow.

This ſyſtematic proceſs of nature may, to the leſs enlightened reader, ſeem matter of ſo much ambiguity, that ſomewhat more in explanation may be probably required; but as abſtruſe reaſoning and phyſical definition (it has been before ſaid) is not the purpoſe

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of the preſent publication, every irrelative matter will be carefully avoided that can tend to perplex the mind or embarraſs the judgment. It would therefore be deviating widely from the plan originally formed for the accommodation of general comprehenſion, were we (by unneceſſary introduction) to enter into the very extenſive field of anatomical ſtructure and animal mechaniſm, demonſtrating phyſically by what admirable means the excrementitious part of aliment is rejected from the ſtomach and conveyed through the inteſtinal canal, when diveſted of its more ſubtle and nutritious properties; which being totally abſorbed by an infinity of veſſels in the very work of digeſtion, is carried into the circulation, and there conſtitutes, by its different ſecretions, the ſource of life and ſupport; from which ſyſtematic transformation is derived that formation of blood, that gradual enlargement of fleſh and bone, only to be explained by much literary information on one ſide, and underſtood by no ſmall portion of medical knowledge on the other.

It will conſequently ſuffice to ſay, that the

the reader, whoſe mind is more enlarged, whoſe views are more extenſive, and who cannot reconcile his opinion or found his judgment upon the quality of *aliment*, the proceſs of *digeſtion*, or the effect of *nutrition*, by what has been conciſely introduced upon thoſe ſubjects, muſt derive more ſubſtantial aſſiſtance from the variety of excellent profeſſional publications more particularly adapted to ſuch inveſtigation and enquiry; as the majority of thoſe who do me the honour of occaſional inſpection, will certainly expect, under the head we now write upon, to find much more matter of amuſement and rural inſtruction than ſcientific diſquiſition.

Declining therefore a matter of ſo much extent, and ſo little applicable to the preſent purpoſe, we naturally revert to the ſtate of the mare and the means of enlarging the powers; from which alone, the foal is to receive not only a ſufficiency of nutriment for bare ſubſiſtence, but an abſolute abundance or ſuperflux for the promotion of advantages we have ſo particularly explained. The deficiency before-mentioned having been

attentively

attentively aſcertained, and excellent paſture with good water not being found to increaſe the flow of milk ſo much as is evidently required, an addition of more ſubſtantial and nutritive food muſt be aſſociated with what has been always conſidered the firſt and moſt natural aliment for equeſtrian improvement.

All rules, however eſtabliſhed, are perpetually liable to ſome exception, and nature is not uncommonly aſſiſted (or counteracted) by ways and means the very leaſt expected; for every conſtitution will not be acted upon in the ſame manner either in the human or brute creation. In fact, daily experience with the human ſpecies affords ample proof, that the *ſame articles* in phyſic or food ſhall act in a direct contrary way, and produce a very different effect upon one habit to what it ſhall in another: A circumſtance ſo generally known and admitted, would furniſh ſufficient latitude for conjecture reſpecting the animal we now treat of, was proof really wanting to eſtabliſh ſuch opinion, which is by no means the caſe, as numerous inſtances might be quoted to corroborate

corroborate a variety of ſimilar contraſts, were they at all neceſſary, to confirm a belief of what in reality there cannot be the leaſt doubt of.

Convinced therefore of ſuch facts, it is but a natural inference to conclude, the beſt, or indeed paſture of any kind may not be ſo equally conducive to the improvement and condition of *all immediately after foaling*, but that it may act as a powerful reſtorative upon one, while it relaxes and debilitates the ſyſtem of another; particularly where, from a vitiated or diſeaſed ſtate of the ſtomach and inteſtines, it paſſes ſo rapidly and indigeſted through the body, as to depoſit but little of either *eſſence* or *ſubſtance* for the ſubſiſtence of the frame or ſupport of the foal.

This is undoubtedly one of the predominant cauſes of the defect, and ſhould be counteracted by ſuch means as are calculated to ſtrengthen the digeſtive powers, animate the circulation, and diffuſe a plentiful ſupply of chyle to preſerve the neceſſary ſecretions, without which a healthy and im-

proving

proving ſtate is not to be expected. To effect this, give a warm maſh every morning compoſed of brown malt three quarts, and one of cracked oatmeal, (commonly called grits) let the water be poured on boiling hot, and repeatedly ſtirred up till of a proper warmth, when it may be given in either field or ſtable, unleſs any ſeverity of weather ſhould render the latter moſt eligible. In the evening of each day, give half a gallon of good ſound mealy oats, with the addition of a pint of old beans, either whole or ſplit, as will be moſt readily taken by the ſubject for whom they are intended; theſe feeds, excluſive of their great nutritive property, will powerfully aſſiſt in retaining the aliment in the ſtomach by their reſtringent quality, thereby contributing largely to the general purport of the whole.

This plan ſhould be perſevered in for ſix days without intermiſſion, when an increaſed ſupply of milk from the mare may be earneſtly expected; but ſhould that improvement not become perceptible, ſhe may be reaſonably deemed *a very poor nurſe*, and no other extraordinary means be attempted to aſſiſt the

the imperfection; but care muſt be taken to wean the foal very early in the enſuing winter, (as will be hereafter explained) upon a well juſtified preſumption, that at the autumnal declination of graſs, her ſlender portion of ſupport for the foal will diſappear alſo.

How far it may be conſiſtent, at leaſt prudent, to breed *a ſecond time* from mares whoſe powers are evidently deficient in furniſhing ſuch portion of milk as is abſolutely neceſſary to ſtamp the attempt with ſucceſs, muſt be left entirely to the deciſion of the parties intereſted in the event; ſome of whom I have before obſerved, are, from different motives, too much attached to undeſerving favourites ever to ſuffer their opinions to be warped by any conſideration or remonſtrance whatever. For my own part, I feel juſtified by perſonal experience and attentive obſervation, in again making public declaration, that in ſo ſerious and expenſive a buſineſs as breeding for either the turf, field, road, or draft, no blind prejudice or infatuating prepoſſeſſion ſhould influence me to perſevere in the practice with palpable points, defects,

or

or disqualifications against me in either *horse* or *mare*; and I have not the least shadow of doubt remaining, but those who confidently make the experiment will have sufficient reason to repent the hazard of the undertaking.

Returning now to the successful foaling of the brood mare, properly adapted to a continuation of breeding, we revert to the accustomed method of soon taking her again to horse; upon which a variety of opinions have been transmitted from sire to son, and re-echoed from one generation to another. It has been the invariable practice with some, to offer the mare a horse on the *fourth* day after foaling, to insure "the greater chance of immediate conception;" with others, "to promote an increased flow of milk," and an established opinion, "that the horse will be more readily taken *at that time* than any future part of the season."

These are opinions in themselves so perfectly inoffensive, and of so little consequence, that they require not the least animadversion;

madverſion; on the contrary, are left open to the judgment of every reader, upon the conſiſtency of which, he may determine as moſt coincident with his own wiſh, or the practice of the place he lives in. As it is my invariable plan not to enlarge upon points that are unneceſſary, or ſtart obſtacles and condemn cuſtoms that can be attended with no palpable prejudice, I ſhall only introduce ſuch ſlight remarks as occur, without obtruding any thing dictatorially deciſive to effect or diſcourage the local cuſtoms of others.

To prevent, however, ſuch inconvenience as may probably ariſe from too haſty a determination, let it be taken into conſideration, that by having the mare covered ſo very ſoon after foaling, you bring her (ſhould ſuch covering be productive) full three weeks or a month ſooner the next ſeaſon than the year preceding; and ſhould that have been only in proper ſeaſon, (viz. the latter end of April or beginning of May) you encounter the probability of much inconvenience; for this calculation remaining unattended to, your produce may fall early in the month of March, not only

under the disadvantage of bleak winds and frigid showers, but before there is a single blade of exuberant pasture to subsist the dam, or encourage the growth of twelve months tedious expectation.

From what has been so lately and repeatedly urged respecting the properties of different kinds of aliment, and its effect upon the animal system, little more can be required to prove, that whenever a necessity absolutely exists for subsisting the mare entirely upon *dry food*, the secretion of milk must be inevitably reduced, and the improvement of the foal proportionally obstructed. Taking this then as a matter universally admitted, and, in fact, what no man living will attempt to disprove, we may naturally conclude no rational investigator of truth and consistency will ever deviate so much from the line of his own interest, as to promote the propagation of what must, at the time of its birth, be in a great degree deprived of its most natural means of existence; a deficiency not in his power to supply by any adequate substitute whatever.

Relin-

Relinquishing therefore so extravagant an idea, we proceed to the time most natural for bringing the mare to the horse after her foaling, if she is intended to continue her services as a brood mare, and to be managed accordingly. The time most applicable in one respect, may not prove always the most convenient in another, as it should be regulated, if possible, to avoid the before mentioned extremes of the foals falling too early or late in the season. Most mares will take the horse on either the *ninth*, *fifteenth*, *twenty-first*, or *twenty-seventh* day after foaling; of these, neither will occasion any great variation in the time of her foaling the next season, though I should adhere to either of the *two last*, unless the mare had foaled late in the year, when the *first* or *second* should certainly be preferred. After which covering, or refusal of the horse, she should continue to be tried at the stated periods so particularly specified in the earlier part of the work; always concluding the mare to be stinted, and in a state of conception, when she has repeatedly declined the horse in the manner there described.

Before we take leave of this part of our ſubject, it comes directly in point to offer a few words upon the almoſt univerſal practice of continuing to breed year after year, from the ſame mare, till nature over-driven thwarts the attempt by the occaſional introduction of a barren year, in direct oppoſition to the intent of the breeder, demonſtrating upon *compulſion* the neceſſity of what he did not intend to comprehend by choice.

The very means by which the embryo is generated, and the nutriment required, not only to ſupport its growth during the months of geſtation, but the ſubſequent term of its *ſuction*, evidently point out the conſiſtency of ſome portion of reſt or reſpite for the dam, to acquire additional ſtrength, after the inceſſant labour of continually collecting a double portion of food to ſubſiſt herſelf and ſupport her offſpring.

The faſhionable and predominant plea of attachment to intereſt and ſelf-preſervation, will render deaf to this remonſtrance numbers,

bers, who, unwilling to "lose the year," and incapable of imbibing instruction from the nicest laws of nature, will be regulated implicitly by the dictates of their own mercenary sensations; affecting to believe, that the mare producing *a foal every year*, will continue her stock equally strong, healthy, and valuable, with those that are favoured with occasional and necessary intermissions. This is not the fact, attentive observation, accurate estimate, and impartial decision, will clearly prove such succession to degenerate in bone, size, strength, and value, when produced from the same mare for a series of years without the least cessation; while, on the contrary, *a single year's fallow* in every three or four, will, upon comparison critically made, prove in the aggregate decidedly in favour of the breeder.

Having gone regularly through every branch of information at all appertaining to the propagation and preservation of stock, we now come to the time and manner of *weaning*; a matter that must ever be regulated much more by the circumstances of

of the caſe than the ſtate of the ſeaſon, depending in a great degree upon the conditions we proceed to explain. Conſiderations upon this ſubject are ſo unavoidably complex, and depend ſo much upon contingencies, that a nicety of diſcrimination is upon all occaſions neceſſary how to proceed in the buſineſs before us.

The difference of a mares foaling early or late in the ſeaſon; her remaining fallow, or having taken the horſe and renewed her conception; the forward growth and rapid improvement, or puny and backward ſtate of the foal, are all *conditional matters* upon which variations are to be formed. For inſtance, where the mare has dropped her foal early in the ſeaſon, has again taken the horſe, and the foal at her foot has improved properly, and acquired the deſired ſtrength and ſize previous to the commencement of ſevere weather; ſuch foal ſhould be taken from the dam ſo ſoon as the decay of paſture perceptibly occaſions a reduction in the ſupply of milk; and this ſeparation becomes the more immediately neceſſary upon an eſtabliſhed truth, that the

longer

longer a foal is permitted to oppreſs nature, by a compulſive ſecretion and evacuation of milk from a mare again advanced in foal, the more will the ſubject *in embryo* be conſequently impoveriſhed and reſtrained, when deprived of its portion of nutriment, *then* converted through another channel, and appropriated to a different uſe. This incontrovertible ſyſtem of the animal œcocomy muſt be ſo evidently clear to the moſt uncultivated comprehenſion, (accuſtomed to dedicate but little attention to the ſlighteſt indications of nature) that it becomes matter of admiration how ſo abſurd a practice can ever be ſupported upon the baſis of inadvertency; when it would be rendering nature acceſſary to a perverſion of her own laws, even to ſuppoſe it was ever intended, that any animal exiſting ſhould longer ſubſiſt or *prey* upon the *very vitals* of its dam, when the frame was again advancing in pregnancy with another.

From this neceſſary alluſion to a practice that is not only exceedingly common and too little attended to, but is alſo prejudicial to the ſubjects themſelves in a greater

degree than generally underſtood, (merely for want of a little ſcientific reflection upon the properties of food and its different effects) we come to a caſe oppoſite in itſelf, that muſt be regulated accordingly; as, where the mare has foaled late in the year, and has not been again put to horſe, or where the retarded and unpromiſing ſtate of the foal renders extra care and nurſing abſolutely neceſſary: In either of which, every encouragement ſhould be given to promote the ſtrength and growth of the foal, during the inclemency of the winter ſeaſon, which, it ſhould be remembered, he is not nearly ſo well enabled to encounter, as thoſe of a greater age poſſeſſing the advantages before deſcribed. In ſuch inſtances as theſe, although the flow of milk from the dam will be very conſiderably checked by the alteration of food dependent upon the different ſeaſons, yet with frequent ſupplies of good hay to the mare, it may be proportionally aſſiſted, and with occaſional aids of proper food to the foal, great advantages may be derived from letting them run together through the ſevereſt months of the winter; to evade the ill

effects

effects of which, nocturnal ſhelter will very much contribute.

Notwithſtanding every poſſible information that can be introduced, ſuch variety of caſes may occur with ſo great a complication of circumſtances, that no literary deſcription, however diffuſe, can prove completely adequate to every idea upon the ſubject; conditional inſtructions muſt always become ſubſervient to the diſcriminating judgment of the owner or ſuperintendant, upon whoſe favourable opinion or prejudice, *caprice* or *compliance*, will depend the effect of the whole; and to ſuch precarious deciſion alone, muſt the writer ultimately ſubmit the conſiſtency and execution of his directions, though he was to produce an *immaculate volume* upon the ſubject.

Conſcious however of the compulſive neceſſity for ſuch dependence, and the diverſity of caſes requiring conditional changes to the variety of circumſtances that may occur, no particular *week* or *month* can be invariably fixed for weaning; as ſome of the contingencies before-mentioned may render it unavoid-

unavoidably neceſſary in the earlieſt month of the winter, or protract it to the lateſt in the ſpring; which muſt, after all that can be offered in print, depend entirely upon the diſcretion and intereſt of the parties more immediately concerned.

Waving, for thoſe reaſons, farther animadverſion reſpecting the *time*, we advert to the *manner* of effecting a change ſometimes attended with difficulty, but ſeldom or ever with danger, particularly when regulated by due attention to *circumſtances*, *ſeaſon*, *ſtate*, and *condition*; conſiderations that never eſcape the eye of vigilance, and generally inſure their own reward. Towards the concluſion of the year, the foal acquires, by inſtinct and obſervation, ſome reliſh for paſture, but unluckily begins to enjoy it juſt at its autumnal declination, when long dreary nights, damp fogs, and frequent rains have ſucceeded the enlivening rays of the genial ſun, depriving it of its former ſubſtance and vernal ſweetneſs; at this critical period all nature undergoes a viſible alteration, and the change is as ſe-

vere

vere in its effects upon the animal as the vegetative part of the world.

In this general revolution, the expected and former nutriment from the *dam* becomes not only reduced in *quantity*, but impaired in *quality*; divested in a great degree of its balsamic and nourishing property, it wisely points out to the foal, the *feeling* necessity of an adequate substitute for such deficiency; under so predominant a sensation as *hunger*, he readily submits to an alteration in the means of subsistence, and in a few days becomes perfectly reconciled to the food allotted him, provided it is applicable to the state of his infancy, good in its kind, and properly selected to gratify the calls of nature.

Of these there are various kinds, that have each their different advocates, whether in *oats*, *bran*, *chaff*, *barley*, *wheat*, *hay*, or *straw*, and each advocate loaded with reasons of the first importance and self consequence, (regulated perhaps by pecuniary sensation) to justify the opinion he has formed: But as it is by no means the pur-

pose

pose to lead our readers through a dull and tedious labyrinth of perplexities, without a glimmering of either *utility* or *information*, we shall endeavour to ascertain the preference without animadverting upon the judgment and opinion of others, wishing upon the basis of truth and consistency *only* to establish the criterion of our own.

It has been generally said of OATS (although the universally established food for horses) that they are dangerous to foals at the time of weaning, under an idea of the *optic nerves* being so violently affected by the strength required in mastication, as to occasion future disease, debilitation, and sometimes loss of the eyes: As this is however a matter that can never be reduced to certainty, but must always remain dependent upon conjecture, without even the possibility of proof, it may be perfectly applicable to the disposition of those who entertain doubts, to adopt the alternative of feeding with the *grain* or *grits* only first divested of the *hulls*, as in the *shell* or *husk* such difficulty must be resident, and not in the meal.

BRAN

Bran may have its occasional use, when called in aid of other *aliment*, but is entitled to little or no estimation on the score of *nutriment*, being like the different kinds of *straw* or *chaff*, evidently calculated more to amuse the appetite and expand the frame than subsist the body. Barley, (particularly when manufactured, and meliorated into malt) as well as Wheat, commands the priority of invigoration with almost every part of the creation; for whether the experiment be made on *man*, *beast*, or the more inferior classes of *fowl* or *vermin*, it becomes every way conspicuous. The great salubrity and nutritive property of sound, fragrant, well-made Meadow and Clover Hay are too universally known to require a single line upon their excellence.

In addition to these, most of which are in constant use, may be introduced two articles equally applicable, though not in such general request; they are nevertheless in the highest estimation with those who have proved their utility, and stand entitled to the warmest recommendation. First, the *pulse* passing under the denomination of

Horse

Horse Beans, which from their great ſubſtance, adheſive quality, and known invigorating power, are juſtly ſuppoſed to convey a greater portion of nutriment to the ſyſtem than any other corn appropriated to the ſame uſe. Admitting this to be really the caſe, they likewiſe retain the advantage of being readily adapted to horſes of every deſcription from infancy to age, and may be given as exigencies require, either in their natural ſtate whole, or *ſplit*, as is the uſual method when given with bran (a feed very common with horſes of the lower claſs of mechanics) or completely ground, (and called *bean meal)* for the uſe of foals or colts, ſo young that they are incapable of receiving them in any other ſtate.

The other article, whether recommended as a uſeful winter ſubſtitute for the more ſucculent herbage of the ſummer, or only as a cheap and additional method of ſubſiſtence, need only be more generally known to eſtabliſh its own reputation; whether joined to the accuſtomed food of draft horſes uſed in agriculture, colts during thoſe months of the year when the growth

of

of pasture is restrained, foals when weaning, or in addition to the keep of mares whose foals are required and permitted to run at the foot *all the winter*, it is of equal utility, particularly to the latter, whose flow of milk it greatly enlarges if given in sufficient quantities to promote the advantage.

CARROTS, the article thus highly commended, after fair and impartial trial, is one of the most valuable in the vegetable world, and so easy of cultivation, that in a light sandy soil no crop is supposed to produce a greater share of emolument; of this, certain adventurers are so well convinced, that the very labourers in the north west parts of the county of Surry, rent from the neighbouring farmers a moiety of even the poorest land upon the verge of the barren heath, at the exorbitant price of three and four pounds per acre for the summer season, only to produce a single crop, when it is immediately resigned to the landlord for his season of wheat to follow.

The

The largeſt and handſomeſt they begin to pull in September and October; theſe are very neatly formed into bunches, and conſigned to the London market by the waggon load, at the enormous expence of *two guineas* for the carriage only, which with the additional trouble and charge of double *hoeing*, *pulling*, *waſhing*, and *bunching*, gives it the appearance of a very expenſive crop; but when it is taken into the calculation, that *three*, ſometimes *four* loads are produced from a ſingle acre, that (according to the ſeaſon) ſell in London from *four* to *ſix* pounds per load, the great advantage becomes palpably ſtriking even to the moſt indifferent arithmetician. But the emolument ends not here; for upon the average, no more than two-thirds of the produce are included in the above proportion, as turning out ſufficiently handſome for the trade before deſcribed; the remaining proportion, that are *ſhort*, *ill-ſhaped* and *forked*, are deemed *refuſe*, and uſed in the winter by ſuch growers as have ſtock of their own, or diſpoſed of by thoſe who have none to their neighbours at a very moderate price. To the corroboration of this

this fact I ſpeak experimentally, having been a conſumer among my own ſtock of *four-ſcore buſhels* in one winter, purchaſed at only ſixpence each buſhel, excluſive of a very conſiderable quantity produced from a part of my own land, then under ſimilar cultivation from a thorough conviction of their utility and profit.

The method to preſerve them for the winter conſumption is as follows: Let them be taken up early in the autumn, ſo ſoon as their ſuperficial or vegetative parts begin to decline, and laid upon a bed of *new wheat ſtraw*, (in a dry room or cloſe granary) without cleaning, juſt as they are taken out of the ground; they are then to be plentifully covered with the ſame bedding, to protect them from long and ſevere froſts that frequently enſue, after being affected by which, they ſoon decay and become rotten; no fear of this need, nevertheleſs, be entertained, provided proper care and attention be paid to the bed and covering, as they then continue perfectly ſound to the expiration of a very long winter. There is alſo another equally effec-

tual method of preſervation much in uſe in the neighbourhood alluded to, by ſubſtituting *ſand* for ſtraw, letting them be very ſubſtantially covered to exclude the external air; but as that article is not ſo univerſal, or to be obtained by any means in many parts of the kingdom, ſtraw muſt undoubtedly prove moſt convenient for the purpoſe.

During the ſeaſon required for conſumption, let any quantity be taken from the heap and placed in a maſh or other tub, there covered with water from a pump, or pond, as may be moſt convenient; when having ſtood an hour or two, to ſoften the ſurrounding earth left on for preſervation, they ſhould be well waſhed with a heath broom for a few minutes till properly clean; then pouring off the foul water, and waſhing them once more with a pail or two of clean, they will ſoon become dry enough for the following operation.

Let them be cut firſt longitudinally, then tranſverſely; or, to make uſe of a more comprehenſible term, (at leaſt rather better adapted

adapted to the ruſtic capacities of thoſe likely to become the operators) "*athwart and acroſs*," into ſmall ſquares about the ſize of a horſe or tick bean; in which ſtate they will be conſumed in the winter with the greateſt avidity, by any claſs of horſes, mares, or colts, either alone or intermixed with chaff, oats, bran, or any other dry food to which they are accuſtomed.

To remove ſuch doubts as may ariſe in the minds of thoſe who paſs through life in the true *mechanical dog-trot* of their great grandſires, and who, from their perſonal pride and innate dulneſs, never condeſcend to make an *experiment*, or ſanction an *improvement* when made; I think it neceſſary to repeat the fact, that I have with the greateſt ſucceſs introduced this additional article of food to all the different horſes in my poſſeſſion (hunters excepted) during a long, dreary, and ſevere winter, never remembering to have had them in better health, vigour and condition. Among theſe were a team of draft horſes in conſtant employment, not only in agriculture, but occaſional hard work upon

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the road; growing colts of different kinds, as well as brood mares and foals, who all equally enjoyed a participation of the experiment in every kind of way it could be offered them; tending sufficiently to justify every thing I can presume to offer in recommendation of the practice, more particularly with stock required only in *improving condition* during the winter, and not destined to any kind of labour.

In this just representation, I beg by no means to have my expressions misconstrued, or my meaning perverted, but desire it should be generally understood, I urge their utility in applicable proportions as a cheap auxiliary to *other food*, without indulging an idea of their being used *alone*; as well as to have it held in remembrance, however serviceable and healthy they may have proved, and certainly are to the unemployed part of stock, it was never my intent to declare them capable of constituting *the basis of nutrition and support* for horses in constant and laborious work. On the contrary, knowing experimentally the great expence of breeding, and how necessary it

is

is to acquire occasional aid from the frequent interposition of *Economy*, I earnestly recommend the culture of them upon that score, (in those parts of the kingdom not so favourably adapted to breeding) as a very useful and profitable associate with other food for brood mares, foals, and growing colts, in severe or long winters, when hay and corn are at an exceeding high price from a general failure in the crop, or an indifferent season for the harvest.

From this unavoidable deviation we return to the business of WEANING, a matter that will be in some degree more easily reconciled by permitting the foal to feed with the mare for a few days upon the dry food previous to the entire separation. The question naturally and indeed generally arising at this period, is not, what food is the most salutary for the subject in question; but, Which is the kind of food most applicable to the sensations of the owner? Though was reason or prudence consulted, that food would be adopted most adequate to the probable value of the foal; for notwithstanding all that can be urged in the defence of breeding systematically, to produce

ſtock of ſhape, ſtrength, figure, faſhion, bone or ſpeed (according to the purpoſes for which they are deſigned) there will ſtill remain a more than *moderate proportion* of the breeders formerly deſcribed, who muſt inevitably continue to propagate ſtock, not worth the *proper ſupport* of even the firſt twelve months, was their intrinſic value to be brought into arbitrative competition with the year's conſumption.

No doubt can be entertained but the ſweeteſt hay, with a daily portion of the hulled oats and a trifling addition of the bean meal, would be as perfectly grateful to the weaning foal of a *five pound poney mare* as to the palate of a ſon of HIGHFLYER; but it is natural to conclude, in the preſent hourly increaſing age of ſagacity and penetration, *ſelf-intereſt*, with its concomitants, will never be ſo totally obſcured, as not to regulate the conduct of the majority, and that mares and colts will in general be ſupported with a political reference to *profit* and *loſs*, however ſome exceptions (with favourites of a former deſcription) may produce many a four-year old at the domeſtic expence of *thirty*, *forty*,

 or

or *fifty pounds*, whoſe whole accumulation of *points* and *perfections* will never exceed *five and twenty* when brought to the teſt of inſpection at a public market.

Conſcious how many will continue to breed under every diſadvantage, and to perſiſt under every peculiarity, I ſhall ſubmit the diſtinct kind of aliment to be ſelected, and the quantity to be regulated entirely by the judgment, whim, caprice, experiment, or local cuſtom of every individual, upon a perfect conviction he will juſtly claim and exert that privilege, in oppoſition to any opinion or dictation of mine; whoſe farther inſtructions upon this head might be candidly conſidered obtruſive, where conditional directions under ſo many contingencies (as the ſtate of various ſubjects and temperature or ſeverity of different ſeaſons) muſt prove totally inadequate to general application.

Convinced however, on the contrary, how very many there are, who anxious for information and open to inſtruction, poſſeſs patience to receive, and judgment to adopt, every ſpecies of improvement calculated for the promotion of

general good; it is entirely for their accommodation, that I have minutely descended not only to an explanation of the quality of different kinds of food, but repeatedly to the work of digestion and effect of nutrition, that the very means of *growth*, *strength* and *condition* may be more rationally considered and fundamentally understood.

Presuming on the care taken to inculcate such knowledge, and thoroughly convinced of the advantages that arise from a liberal distribution of provender to stock of every kind upon certain emergencies, I beg to conclude my observations under this head, with an additional injunction to breeders of every denomination, to endeavour in the *two first winters*, to acquire all possible advantage in size, strength and bone; which I have before said, and again assert, depends as much upon the judicious and plentiful supplies of food, as the qualifications of horse or mare, so solely relied upon and eternally echoed by those subordinate cavillists who possess the opinion, but not the means, to justify their assertion. For size, strength and bone being thus constantly promoted by care and atten-

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tion, they not only form the frame for a ready acquisition of flesh in that season of the year when nature dispenses her gifts with a more liberal hand, but being *once obtained* can never be obliterated; while, on the contrary, the first opportunity of acquiring those perfections being totally lost by an unfair restraint in sustenance during the *first two years*, the stock is more or less *stinted*, and an irreparable deficiency constituted that can never be supplied in *the same subjects*, by either present regret or future repentance.

BREAKING.

IT will not come within the limits of this work, or the intention of the writer, to interfere with the operative part of the art, offering a dissertation upon the routine of *leading*, *lunging*, *backing*, *riding*, *mounting*, or *dismounting*, with *ease*, *grace*, and *agility*; these are the professional privileges of BREAKERS alone, from the rustic rough rider of the most obscure village in the country, to the fashionable and accomplished MENAGE MASTER GENERAL of the metropolis.

tropolis. Professing therefore no interference with, or attack upon, the principles of the science, I proceed to such allusive remarks and inferences as interest not only breeders and sportsmen, but all those who have any immediate intercourse with the species, whether from the motive of attachment, pleasure, health, or business.

The first object for general consideration, is the age most proper for bringing into work horses of different descriptions, according to their distinct appropriations; but this, like most other matters, has become subservient to the prevalence of fashion, and in much less than half a century undergone a total revolution. Some years since (and not a great many) colts and fillies were haltered and handled a little *at three*; turned out again and compleatly broke *at four*; used moderately during their *fifth year*, and thought to be sufficiently matured for constant work *at six*; such system has been, however, gradually changing as the value of horses continued to increase, a circumstance that in all probability effected the alteration, by tempting breeders to turn their stock into specie, with much less trouble, expence and anxiety

anxiety than when kept ſo long upon hand before they could be taken to market.

This has turned ſo much to advantage in their annual transfer to the London dealers, who purchaſe at the famous fairs of Banbury, Northampton, Leiceſter, Reading, and many others, (excluſive of their extenſive agencies in Yorkſhire and other diſtant counties) that they are now broke and ſold ſo ſoon as they have obtained *ſize*, and undergo the moſt infamous practices upon their teeth, to enable the *conſcientious ſeller* to diſpoſe of a two, three, or four year old, for a *four*, *five* or *ſix*; which he frequently does with ſuch aſſurances of *truth* and *integrity*, that the cheat is very little likely to be diſcovered by any ſagacity or circumſpection whatever.

A ſimilar degree of refinement has been effected upon the turf, as with the more inferior claſſes; for what has been promoted by *intereſt* on one hand, has been extended by the invincible *ſpirit of oppoſition* on the other. It is but few years ſince a four year old plate was conſidered the firſt *public* trial of ſpeed and bottom, between young horſes

calculated

calculated and trained for racing: But horſes (as well as women) are, by the great and illumined effect of modern penetration, found to be ſo much forwarder in the *natural ſtate* of their conſtitution, that *both* are brought into uſe many years ſooner in the preſent than the paſt century; having now not only plates conſtantly run for by three years old, but frequent matches and ſweepſtakes with two years old and yearlings.

In this general improvement (if it can be ſo termed) I believe any obſervant or experienced reader will coincide with me in opinion, and hazard the aſſertion, that many hundred horſes are annually crippled or irrecoverably injured before they arrive at maturity; that is, before they arrive at a proper age for the work to which they are ſo frequently moſt injudiciouſly deſtined. In ſupport of this fact, no greater or more indiſputable authority need be adduced, than a reference to the infinity of invalids to be daily ſeen on all the popular roads leading to the metropolis; but ſhould a ſtronger proof be required, to meet the opinions of the *intereſted* and *incredulous*, let it be extracted from the viſible

effect

effect of the burning cautery, or rotational multiplicity of FIRED HORSES in perpetual liberation from the hands of every eminent operator in the various parts of the kingdom. As this custom is now too far advanced in practice, and too firmly established by interest, (at the original source of circulation) to admit of cure or palliation, farther animadversion upon its ill effects cannot be productive of either success or utility; continuing therefore our determination to avoid remarks extraneous or desultory, we proceed to such practical observations as are more likely to excite general attention.

Of these, none become more entitled to the consideration of *horse breakers* and their employers, than the natural disposition and temper of the subject they are taking in hand; for it is a positive fact that more horses have been injured in their tempers and dispositions by the indiscretion, impetuosity, or *professional intoxication* of those to whose management they are unavoidably entrusted, than by any other means whatever.

Reason and observation afford evident demonstration

monſtration that horſes have their different degrees of ſagacity and penetration; their ſpontaneous efforts are all regulated by the moſt impreſſive and inherent ſenſations, dependent upon paſſions conſpicuous as our own; ſubject to an equal diſplay of fortitude, fear, joy, grief, courage, timidity, attachment and prejudice as any of the human ſpecies; and this is ſo perfectly known to thoſe who have made nature the object of frequent meditation, that they cannot conſider the communication a matter of novelty; while thoſe who receive the information under an impreſſion of doubt, muſt, in the moments of reflection, be ſeriouſly convinced they have read but little in the fertile volume of experience.

Upon the moſt palpable conviction, that thoſe paſſions have a predominant aſcendancy over their different ſubjects, I preſume to urge the conſiſtency of rendering the animal obedient to the will, by ſuch methods as are calculated more to acquire his ſubmiſſion than excite his anger; or, in other words, to accompliſh the buſineſs more by gentle means than coercive exertions. The neceſ-

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ſity for earneſtly recommending this lenity in the practice, has ariſen from innumerable inſtances within my own knowledge, of horſes rendered invincibly reſtiff by the dint of perpetual ill uſage and unjuſt oppoſition; when from the natural bent of their diſpoſitions, a different mode of treatment would have produced a direct contrary effect.

To this part of the ſubject I have ever paid the greateſt perſonal attention, and declare, with the ſtricteſt adherence to truth, I never yet ſaw a *reſtiff horſe* made better by violence and abuſe. If any vociferous diſputant, fond of diſplaying his courage and exerting his power, feels his *innate cruelty* in ſome degree abridged by the intervention of humanity, and arrogantly aſks, "Whether he is to abandon his purpoſe, and permit the horſe to gain the victory and become his maſter?" I anſwer him with the greateſt ſerenity, "On no account whatever." Such is not the purport of my recommendation; our intents are undoubtedly the ſame, but to be eventually accompliſhed by very different means; I repeatedly urge the propriety of due attention to the various tempers and diſ-

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positions of horses, upon the purest conviction, that the treatment really necessary for a horse of very high courage and almost invincible spirit, cannot be consistent or proper for one of extreme timidity; that one horse may be subdued from any predominant vice, or regulated to any particular action, by a moderate exertion of power, while another will submit only to a constant display of the greatest tenderness and familiarity. These extremes frequently exist in horses of a similar class, value, speed, and qualifications; equally liable to injurious impressions from being managed in a way directly opposite to the very nature of their dispositions

A due degree of patient discrimination should be always exerted, to discover the temper of the subject and ascertain the line of distinction; what may be expected from a steady firmness and persuasive mildness, previous to the too ready exertion of *violence*, in general very eagerly conceived and maliciously executed. Horses are perfectly conscious of the different treatment they receive, and give the most striking proofs of their attachment or dislike in consequence:

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This is a fact but little known amidſt the multitude of *ſuperficial obſervers* and *metropolitan ſportſmen*, but incontrovertible with thoſe who ſurvey this animal with the daily eye of exquiſite pleaſure and admiration.

The *equanimity*, *fortitude*, and *ſobriety*, ſo indiſpenſibly neceſſary for the ſucceſsful breaking and management of young, reſtiff, timid, or high ſpirited and refractory horſes, muſt be too ſenſibly felt by every judicious reader, to require the leaſt animadverſion upon the advantage of ſuch qualifications; I ſhall therefore proceed to a few remarks upon the almoſt ſyſtematic conduct of grooms, breakers, and ſervants, (to whoſe care horſes of the firſt eſtimation are unavoidably entruſted) who perſiſting indiſcriminately to effect all their purpoſes *by force*, frequently err much more from the very motive that Pope's ruſtic hero whiſtled, "*want of thought*," than any predetermined ſpirit of oppoſition to the rules of conſiſtency and diſcretion.

It is no uncommon occurrence with conſtant travellers, to perceive one of this deſcription mounted upon a horſe denominated reſtiff, that without any apparent motive

(at leaſt perceptible to the rider) by which the cauſe may be diſcovered, ſuddenly *ſtop*, *retreat*, or *turn round* upon the road, viſibly encreaſing his reluctance to go forward, in proportion to the anger and violent oppoſition of the rider; who, too frequently a ſlave to iraſcibility, raſhly ſuppoſes his courage is now put to the teſt, and becomes immediately determined to conquer by violence or loſe his life in the attempt. This haſty reſolve affords no moment to reflect upon the imperfections of our *own nature*, the daily inconſiſtency of our proceedings, or the means by which they are excited or reſtrained; a total ſtranger to the *ſchool of philoſophy*, and little read in the book of *refined ſenſation*, he deals about him with whip and ſpur moſt unmercifully, till the animal (with perhaps a diſpoſition directly like his own) revolting ſtill more at the ſeverity or inhumanity of the treatment, becomes outrageous, and by exertions of ſtrength or ſtratagem diſmounts his rider, or in a *retrogade motion* depoſits him in a *ditch*, on one ſide the road or the other. The action is now renewed between *horſe and foot* in a different way, the latter attacking the former

mer with the utmoſt violence over the head and eyes, erroneouſly adopting AN IRICISM, to *bring him forward by driving him back*: This perpetual and ſevere diſcipline often rouſes in the ſubject a certain kind of habitual calloſity to every future intervention of tenderneſs, and renders him ever after incapable of becoming chearfully obedient to what he conſiders his moſt inveterate enemy.

Some horſes are alſo brought to a certain degree of ſtarting exceedingly dangerous, by a ſimilar and equally improper mode of treatment; for there can be no doubt but horſes that are young (or have been but little uſed) muſt have ſome time, patience, care and attention beſtowed to reconcile them to the *ſtrange* and *numerous* objects upon a public road, before they can be expected to approach or paſs them without ſudden ſurpriſe and trouble. Indeed, the great variety and velocity of the different vehicles upon all the populous roads, but particularly round the metropolis, renders it a matter of abſolute wonder, how ſuch an infinity of the higheſt mettled horſes in the kingdom, ſhould be

eternally paſſing each other in crouds without thoſe dreadful accidents ſo natural to expect and fortunately ſo little heard of.

It is really a matter of concern, that a cuſtom ſo inconſiderate and abſurd ſhould ever have gained ground, as the practice of inſtantly *beating* and *goading* a horſe upon his only method of expreſſing a momentary and natural impulſe of fear, at any ſtrange or uncommon object that may come ſuddenly upon him, or to which he may not have been accuſtomed: In this as the former caſe, a ſimilar degree of ſeverity and cruel diſplay of power is exerted by the major part of the *humane* and *enlightened* claſs beforementioned; for upon the horſe's firſt ſtarting, (whether from fear or diſlike) he inſtantly receivesa blow on the head with whip or ſtick, accompanied with the very emphatical impreſſion of both ſpurs, without allowing the poor animal a moment to recover from the firſt ſurpriſe; this repeated, conſtitutes *a ceremony* we have before explained, and totally deſtroys the baſis of mutual confidence, that ſhould be carefully preſerved to inſure the faithful

faithful ſervices of one and the protection of the other.

Great inconveniencies ariſe from this unjuſt and ſevere method of treating horſes in general, where from blows indiſcriminately dealt in paſſion, the bones of the head, or the eyes, are irreparably injured by the ſervant, and the real cauſe never truly known to the maſter; ſeveral inſtances having occurred within my own knowledge, of exfoliations from the jaw bones, (with and without a diſlodgement of teeth) ſome of which I diſcovered upon inſpecting what the owners imagined to be a diſeaſe or canker in the mouth, and not till an examination of the bones of others after death; the greater part or all of which, I have no doubt, were produced by blows with weapons very little calculated for *rods of correction*.

That there can be no doubt of horſes ſuſtaining great injuries by theſe means, I have every reaſon to believe, from numbers I have ſeen fall *inſtantly* to the ground, upon receiving a blow ſeemingly ſlight and of no great force immediately behind the ear:

Among thoſe, my memory furniſhes me with inſtances of two that happened in the public parts of different large towns; one paſſionately inflicted by a brother of the faculty, the other by a ſon of the church; the laſt of which was almoſt accompanied with ſo ſingular a circumſtance, that I cannot reſiſt the temptation of a ſhort digreſſion to recite it.

Being a man of very low ſtature, and engaged to preach (for an abſent friend) in an exceeding large church and high pulpit not a hundred miles from one of our univerſities, he delivered his text from that part of ſcripture including the words, "*In a little time you ſhall ſee me, and in a little time you ſhall not*;" at this moment, the ſtool upon which he ſtood, to render himſelf conſpicuous to the congregation, ſlipping from under him, rendered him not only inſtantly *inviſible*, but proved the words of his text to have been ſelected with the moſt *prophetic inſpiration*.

Leaving to the force of imagination the general conſternation of his auditors and the confuſion

confuſion of the preacher, I proceed to his additional mortification in the ſame town a ſhort time after; where riding up to the door of his draper upon a favourite horſe, and the horſe very little uſed to the hurry of large towns, inſtantly ſtarted at ſome object within or without; when the little man, *in his warmth*, giving him a petulant blow upon the head, brought both horſe and rider to the ground in the preſence of twenty inhabitants, who having his former dilemma freſh in their memories, it doubly inſured him the appendage of " A little time ye ſhall ſee me, and a little time ye ſhall not;" which honourable diſtinction will, in all probability, accompany him to the grave, he being at preſent only in the prime of life.

From ſuch remarks as I thought abſolutely neceſſary to expoſe the cruelty of ill uſing horſes, and demonſtrate my invariable opinion, that *violence* and unjuſt ſeverity, nine times out of ten, injures their tempers and confirms their vices; I come to ſuch proof as may tend not only to obtain converts to *that opinion*, but to introduce a juſtification of my own; viz. that horſes of mild tempers and

pliable dispositions, may be brought to every state of perfection by *gentle usage* corresponding with their own frame of mind; while, on the contrary, the ferocity of the highest spirited may be gradually subdued by exertions of *steady authority* and *persevering fortitude*, blended with intervening acts of kindness and occasioual encouragement, without descending to the most unjustifiable ill usage, tending only to excite invincible prejudice and perpetual opposition.

The proofs upon which such opinion is incontrovertibly founded, constitute an experience of twenty years, in which time I have attentively analized the tempers of horses, and the practical principles of *their breakers*, with as much fervency as the professional abilities and medical knowledge of *Country Farriers*, so fully and repeatedly explained in different parts of the former Volume. There is a certain analogy in the practice of both; and *kill* or *cure* may be adopted by each for his motto, without injury to either; and with much greater propriety than one of the same-learned fraternity defined his employer's horse to be "*semper eadem*, worse and worse;" or the other, "*Vivant Rex*, dead

dead as a door nail, by G-d, Sir." Theſe ſlips are, however, to be charitably conſidered ſublime effuſions of fancy, to which men of ſuperior genius are juſtly entitled as laudably emerging from vulgar explanation, and ſublimely ſoaring beyond the limits of common comprehenſion.

Experience is, upon the foundation of the ancient adage, univerſally ſaid "*to make fools wiſe.*" To a little of that ſalutary experience I acknowledge myſelf indebted, and am not aſhamed to confeſs, that in the very early part of life, I became a temporary ſlave to cuſtom, and creduloufly beſtowed my premium of three guineas (excluſive of the keep) to have a colt rendered every thing *that was bad*, by the moſt popular diſtributor of equeſtrian diſcipline in the neighbourhood of my reſidence; when after an abſence of ſix weeks, the time fixed on neceſſary to compleat his education and render him a paragon of perfection, he was returned ſo *capariſoned*, *bitted*, *caviſoned*, *martingaled*, and *cruppered*, that he ſeemed admirably decorated for the immediate adventures of a knight errant, the field day *charger* of a general officer, or ready ac-

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coutred for the champion of England to make his public entry into Weſtminſter Hall. My inſtructions were, to ride him for ſome time "*in his tackle*," though he was as *well broke*, as *ſteady*, *temperate* and *ſafe* as any horſe in the kingdom." My very firſt excurſion, however, convinced me of the honor and probity of this ſcientific operator; for the colt was in poſſeſſion of every vice without a ſingle perfection in his favour, except a wonderful alacrity in *ſtopping*, which he had the kindneſs to do unſolicited, at every *public houſe* upon the different roads for ſome miles round; to all which he had been rotationally led, and daily placed for many hours in the ſtable of *one or the other*, while his indefatigable tutor was, like "*friend Razor*" in the Upholſterer, conſtantly getting drunk for the good of his country!

As I before ſaid, he was much worſe in qualities and condition than at his departure; but as the reward had been gradually drained during the time the ſuppoſed work was in hand, *purchaſed experience* and *patient repentance* were the only remaining con-

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lations. This mortifying impoſition having excited no ſmall degree of ſtabularian emulation, I commenced *rough rider* to my own little eſtabliſhment, under the influence of juſt reſentment, determined to try the effect of frequent aſſociation, regular *perſonal* feeding, conſtant exerciſe, and gentle treatment, to complete my purpoſe; which attempt having been crowned with the moſt perfect ſucceſs, and formed the baſis of all my future endeavours, I have never ſince (a period of twenty-one years) condeſcended to accept or reward the ſervices of *breakers* or rough riders of any denomination for their *ineſtimable* aſſiſtance; although in ſome inſtances I admit their utility, and acknowledge there are many, whoſe merit and integrity are entitled to commendation and reward; but their proportion is by no means equal to thoſe pot valiant heroes, who take their *rides* and *potations* in ſtrict ſucceſſion, upon the principle of *Pan in Midas*, who ſays, "When I am moſt rocky, I beſt ſit my ſaddle." This I can never be induced to doubt in oppoſition to occular demonſtration, as it is the general ſtate in which I meet the *moſt eminent profeſſors* in every part

part of the country; from whose *sober* system of instruction their subject must certainly derive every necessary advantage.

Without descending to a tedious enumeration of the injuries colts in breaking, or horses in exercise, receive from pretended *breakers* or worthless grooms under the effect of intoxication, I return to the subject of those that are *restiff* or addicted to *starting*; the general mismanagement of which, I have already described without at all heightening the picture to a degree of exaggeration, and have now to add, that upon a well founded opinion of the inconsistency of such severe treatment, I first formed my determination to encounter the cure of those defects, by a method *directly opposite*, whenever time should afford me applicable opportunity.

It is, I must acknowledge, some little gratification of personal ambition, to have succeeded so well in a confirmation of the opinion I had indulged, respecting the erroneous and cruel treatment of horses of such description; and with no trifling satisfaction I communicate the fact, of having been possessed

ſeſſed at different times of three horſes incorrigibly *reſtiff*, and as much ſubject to that dangerous failure of *ſtarting* as any horſes in the univerſe without exception. Theſe were ſeparately purchaſed with a perfect knowledge of their defects, and at a price proportioned to their deficiencies; each of the owners and their ſervants conſidering themſelves in ſuch perpetual danger, that it was determined to afford no farther chance of *a fracture for the Surgeon* or a ſurvey for the *Coroner*, but to diſpoſe of them at all events as *incurable*. The horſes purchaſed under ſuch accumulation of diſadvantages, (without arrogating to myſelf a ſuperiority in horſemanſhip or courage) I reduced by a patient perſeverance in the plan I have already laid down *(as infallible)* to the moſt pliable and beſt conditioned horſes I have ever had in poſſeſſion; uſing no other correction of ſeverity with either *whip* or *ſpur*, than juſt ſufficient to let them be convinced I did not practice *lenity* from the motive of *puſillanimity*, but to afford them the alternative of ſubmitting to treatment much more adapted to their own eaſe and ſafety.

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By this invariable preſervation of temper and perſeverance in diſcipline, I never found but little difficulty in effecting my purpoſe, not only in reducing them to unconditional ſubmiſſion, but in exciting ſo great an attachment from them, that their obedience and perfections in the field, or upon the road, rendered them objects of general requeſt among my friends, at any equitable price I thought proper to fix them at. If I had, however, a ſingle doubt remaining upon the propriety of this mode of treatment, a recent caſe has ariſen to eradicate *a thouſand* if they had exiſted; and left me in the moſt unſullied poſſeſſion of an opinion, not to be relinquiſhed upon the perſuaſion of any advocate for the violent meaſures I have ſo juſtly reprobated and ſo earneſtly deſpiſe.

The inſtance ſo far exceeding all others I have ſeen, is of a blood horſe now in my poſſeſſion, and univerſally known to be one of the fleeteſt *in five* of the moſt faſhionable popular hunts in the kingdom; this horſe, when purchaſed, was perhaps the moſt *reſtiff*, *ſullen*, and *refractory* ever brought into uſe; his figure and qualifications were nevertheleſs

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ſo palpably ſtriking, they naturally excited every unremitting endeavour to reclaim him. The taſk however for the firſt two or three weeks bore the moſt unpromiſing aſpect; no method that I could adopt, ſeemed to have the leaſt effect upon the obduracy of his diſpoſition; hardened to an almoſt invincible ſpirit of oppoſition by former victories on his ſide, and repeated ill uſage on the other, neither perſuaſive encouragement or violence could prevail on him to move a ſingle yard forward but when it was perfectly his own pleaſure; he would not only continually ſtop in all paces, without the leaſt obſtacle or viſible cauſe whatever, and continue his determination not to go at all forward for a great length of time, but perſevere in a retrogade motion an incredible diſtance, with the uſual concomitants of *rearing*, *plunging* and *kicking* to ſo violent a degree, that numbers of a much more ſerene and philoſophic temper than myſelf, would have certainly proceeded in their reſentment to the utmoſt extremity, and ſome time or other have left him *crippled* or *dead* upon the ſpot. In this daily dilemma, it was the general opinion of intimate friends, and thoſe who were conſtant ſpec-

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tators of the *danger* I rode in for ſome weeks, that he was abſolutely not to be ſubdued, and they poſitively adviſed me to abandon the undertaking; but the inſtinctive ſpirit of attachment to that induſtrious motto of "PERSEVERE AND CONQUER," encouraged me to continue my original plan, which I have repeatedly explained and moſt forcibly recommend; for under that ſyſtem of ſteady and unremitting firmneſs, diveſted of violence, and blended with intervening acts of tender encouragement, he is become one of the ſteadieſt and moſt temperate hunters in the field; though it is plainly perceptible by the agitation ſo conſtantly diſplayed in *the eye, the ear, and action*, upon the approach of *every ſtranger*, that he had repeatedly experienced the ſevere effects of bodily abuſe and ill uſage before he came into the *temperate region* of my poſſeſſion.

These caſes are not introduced from any motive of vanity, to blazon my own practice with the ſtamp of perfection in faſhionable "feats of horſemanſhip," but to afford experimental, demonſtrative, and incontrovertible proof, (founded upon repeated perſonal trials of

of time, patience and danger) that horſes the moſt perverſe, obſtinate and refractory are to be ſubdued and rendered compleatly tractable, with much more certainty, humanity, propriety and expedition, than by thoſe unjuſtifiable acts of violence ſo repeatedly mentioned and accurately explained.

Convinced of this fact by the moſt attentive obſervation, my mind is too ſcrupulouſly formed to admit of an alteration in opinion; and I cannot indulge the leaſt doubt, but the ſubject will undergo in future a nicer deciſion, by thoſe gentlemen whoſe opportunities have not been ſufficiently numerous to aſcertain the effect of the different mode of treatment upon different ſubjects to a critical degree of diſtinction; venturing alſo an additional belief, in which I flatter myſelf moſt obſervers will coincide, that horſes originally *reſtiff* or addicted to *ſudden ſtarting*, are continually habituated in their vices by repeated ill uſage of ſervants and the perpetual transfer from one owner to another, under all the diſadvantage, prejudice, and reſentment inflicted upon *a bad name*, without the lucky chance

of once falling into patient and proper hands to effect the work of reformation.

SHOEING

IS a matter of so much importance, that it cannot be too clearly explained, or too generally understood, consequently creates no surprise that so many writers have condescended to offer their sentiments upon a subject of such magnitude; but it is to be seriously regretted, those opinions have been submitted to public inspection in so remote a way, as applies much more to the professional conception of individuals than the standard of general comprehension.

The various dissertations upon shoeing, or diseases of the feet, have been in general too sublime in their language and too much interspersed with anatomical disquisition and technical jargon, to acquire public patronage and commendation; to such inconsistency alone may perhaps be justly attributed their consignment to oblivion so soon after publication. A minute and scientific investigation or anatomical description of all the corresponding parts, their actions and effects,

cannot

cannot be the moſt proper and conſiſtent method of being clearly underſtood by the very claſs or claſſes of people particularly intereſted in the explanation. Ruſtic *Farriers* and uneducated *grooms cannot*, and GENTLEMEN *will not*, embark in the dull and diſagreeable taſk of theoretic or practical diſſection, to diſcover the ſeat and appropriation of the *tendo Achilles*, or the articulation of the *coronary bone*; nor do I conſider it more neceſſary for a gentleman to paſs through a ſtudy of this kind to aſcertain a proper *conditional* method of ordering his horſes to be ſhod, than to go through a courſe of anatomical lectures and phyſical enquiries, becauſe, like the reſt of mankind, he is ſubject to daily indiſpoſition.

Abſtruſe ſtudy upon ſo plain a ſubject can never be expected from all the claſſes ſo immediately concerned, it therefore becomes the province of the writer, to reduce his inſtructions to ſuch conciſe undiſguiſed explanation, and mode of plain reaſoning *on one ſide*, as may require no uncommon powers of comprehenſion *on*

the other. Authors are too frequently vain of their own abilities, and ſeem to believe too much matter cannot be introduced (however extraneous or digreſſive) to give their works the appearance of elaborate ſtudy and profound erudition; loſing the ſubject in an affected ſublimity of diction, without adverting to the great numbers who either wiſh to acquire information by every poſſible means where the *trouble of reading* can be avoided, or to obtain the purport of their medical reſearches by the moſt ſuperficial and leaſt expenſive enquiry.

The various animadverſions of different writers under this head, are evidently too cloſely wrapped in the veil of obſcurity, and ſeem purpoſely addreſſed much more to the anatomical judgment of the ſcientific Artiſt and operative Farrier, than to the underſtandings of the many, by whom we are to ſuppoſe it ſhould be *equally underſtood*. An elegant arrangement of words, and ambiguity of expreſſion, may conſtitute a loftineſs of ſtile more pleaſing to the gentleman, or the ſcholar, delighting in a judicious diſplay of poliſhed periods; but

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in the present instance is required, such easy flow of plain descriptive matter, as becomes perfectly applicable to the inferior capacities proportionally interested in its effects, who have not the least right to be excluded their share of knowledge, for the ostentatious introduction of pedantic phraseology.

Such connected chain of useful informatian, divested of obscure references to remote considerations, (that serve only to erect one mystery upon the basis of another) must certainly prove much more applicable to the intentional purport of common conception and general improvement, than the many laboured dissertations whose titles promise *so much*, and whose learned contents communicate *so little*, at least, to be generally understood: Under the influence of this impression, I have ever considered such concise, plain, intelligent advice, as will enable every gentleman, sportsman, or traveller, to perceive the necessity of adapting the mode of shoeing to the shape of his horse's foot, and the manner of his going, is all that can be required; to prevent bow-

ing implicit obedience to the ſelf-ſufficient dictation of every *rural Vulcan*, who in general ſpeaks ſuch "an infinite deal of nothing," that it is equally difficult to underſtand as to be underſtood.

Previous to farther progreſs upon a ſubject we will endeavour to treat with great plainneſs and perſpicuity, it becomes unavoidably neceſſary to take a ſlight ſurvey of the inconſiſtent ground work, upon which the fabric of ſuch publications have been raiſed; as we may, perhaps, have occaſion to introduce ſome few obſervations or practical remarks upon the propriety of their recommendations, which ſhall nevertheleſs be produced with all poſſible delicacy to the different writers, wiſhing by no means to irritate their feelings in the ſupport of an oppoſite opinion, where an incumbent duty renders the inculcation indiſpenſible.

The inconſiderate career of ſome pens, and the invincible *cacoethes ſcribendi* of others, compel the involuntary taſk of diſquiſition, to prevent the ill effect of literary impoſition (or miſrepreſentation) upon

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the credulity and inexperienced judgment of individuals; who are in general, *particularly the uncultivated claſſes*, (by far the moſt numerous) diſpoſed to believe every thing ſanctioned with the authority of the preſs and the name of the Printer bears the incontrovertible ſtamp of infallibility. Under the influence of this reflection, and to prove the ſtrict juſtice of the aſſertion, it becomes directly in point to ſtate ſuch inconſiſtencies as evidently ariſe in retroſpection. A writer of the preſent day confidently tells us in his title page, he is " an experienced Farrier of fifty years practice," and promiſes (according to cuſtom) a great deal more information and inſtruction than he ever condeſcended to perform. He then leads you through two hundred pages of dull uninteresting *anatomical deſcriptive*, obliquely copied from the elaborate work of GIBSON; interlards the remaining hundred and ſeventy pages with the almoſt obſolete preſcriptive parts of the ancient Syſtem of Farriery, (ſlightly varied to evade the charge of direct plagiariſm) without the coinage of a *new thought*, or the leaſt indicated know-

ledge of a *new medicine*. The utility of *bark, opium, antimony, and mercury*, thoſe grand ſupporters of the MATERIA MEDICA, ſeem almoſt unknown to him; and that great baſis of external application in modern practice, with its accumulation of valuable properties, the SATURNINE EXTRACT, he has never once given proof of the moſt ſuperficial acquaintance with. But what renders it ſtill more extraordinary is, that out of ſo great a number of pages he has thought proper to beſtow, upon the ſubject of *ſhoeing, and all the diſorders, accidents, or infirmities, to which the feet are liable*, twelve only, including his long and inoffenſive preſcripts for their mitigation or cure. However, as the circulation of the book has been too contracted and inſignificant to gratify the wants, or eſtabliſh the reputation of the writer, it will be but *an act of charity* to contract the remarks *alſo*, ſubmitting both to their inevitable oblivion.

Another of not only longer-ſtanding, but much greater eſtimation, has condeſcended to afford a few more "REFLECTIONS UPON SHOEING HORSES;" but, excluſive of its being

being a confeſſed tranſlation (and conſequently entitled to little more reſpect than *hear ſay evidence* in a court of juſtice) it is ſo replete with mechanical principles and mathematical reaſoning; ſo interſperſed with abſtruſe references and technical alluſions to certain *bones* and *tendons*, their *motions* and *effects*, that I cannot reconcile the deſcription as at all applicable to the intellectual capacities of thoſe moſtly concerned in the operative or ſuperintending part of the proceſs.

A third has produced what he denominated "A Treatiſe on the Diſeaſes and Lameneſs of Horſes, with a proper Method of *Shoeing in general*;" but whether from a want of ſtability in his own diſpoſition (or what other motive I know not) he ſoon took a formal leave of the principal ſubject, and entertained his readers with a dance through Turkey, the deſerts of Arabia, and a comparative ſurvey of the whole animal creation; ornamenting almoſt every page with various *Latin quotations*, as an excitement to the general improvement of all parties intereſted in the *explanatory* parts of his work.

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This author, in the early part of his tract, says, "If you pretend to have your horse shod according to your own mind, it is a general saying among these men, that they do not want to be taught." This very acknowledgement of his justifies the necessity of recommending to the remembrance of every gentleman, sportsman, or traveller, that he is, *in the business of shoeing*, only the imaginary main spring in the *operative part*; and that his inclination or directions become unavoidably dependant upon the will of another. That this remark may be divested of its paradoxical appearance, let it be understood how very much the *safety*, propriety, and excellence of manual execution depend upon the well-timed liberality of THE GENTLEMAN; or, in farther illustration of a passage that may savor too much of *ambiguity* to those whose pecuniary pulsations render it difficult of comprehension, it is almost incredible how very much occasional judicious interpositions of *good beer*, (or the means to obtain it) with the subordinate operator, improves, *to a certainty*, the

the ſyſtem of "SHOEING IN GENERAL," through every part of England.

The mechanical world at large ſtand in no need of information, that in all climates, regions, countries, and counties, there are (paſſing under the denomination of *gentlemen)* poſſeſſors of horſes, too mean and mercenary ever to be *obeyed*, farther than they can command by the inceſſant ſuſpicion and perſonal fatigue of ocular demonſtration; whoſe very *ſervants*, as well as *tradeſmen*, juſtly hold them in ſo much deteſtation, and whoſe conduct is ſo *inconſiſtently conſiſtent*, that it ſerves only to encreaſe the general odium of their characters, (with the additional mortification of feeling the weight of the opprobrium) without the power or inclination to retrieve them.

This univerſal reſentment extends itſelf, in its effects, to his moſt trifling concerns; the ſame diſlike and indifference that follows him in all other reſpects, attends him in this; the ſignificant appellation of "*a d—d bad one*," is equitably beſtowed upon him by the domeſtics under his own roof, and

and re-echoed from *ſervant to ſmith, and ſmith to ſervant*; while the poor animal becomes the ſubject of paſſive obedience; for whether *well* or *ill ſhod, pricked* or *lamed*, is a matter of indifference to all parties except the owner, who being thus acknowledged ſo deſpicable a character, no one feels for his diſquietude or misfortunes, but exultingly exclaims, that what's too *bad* for another is too *good* for him.

Such characters as theſe are not the prolific effect of a fertile imagination, but exact pictures of *objects* the produce of every ſoil. No gratification of ambition, no perſonal oſtentation, can be indulged in the preſent diſcrimination, by arraigning the diſgraceful want of liberality in others, or vainly endeavouring to extol my own: It is, however, matter of the moſt unſullied exultation, that ſuch accuſation has never been known to reach the hoſpitable hall of a SPORTSMAN'S HABITATION; their univerſally admitted generoſity (calculating upon the principle of ſelf-preſervation) ſtands much more in need of the *curb* than the *ſpur*, the general tenor of every *purſuit*

purſuit leaving them totally exculpated from the bare ſuſpicion of being included in the "*beggarly* deſcription."

Taking leave, therefore, of that part of the ſubject as can but ill accord with the feelings of thoſe who may become perſonally affected by ſo faithful a repreſentation of their domeſtic penury; I beg permiſſion to recommend for their deliberative imitation, a part of my invariable practice for a ſeries of more than twenty years. This has always been, to let the manual operator (or *journeymen*, whom I ever conſidered the *main ſpring* of the machine) enjoy ſome pecuniary compenſation, in addition to the profeſſional emolument of the maſter, not more from a conſcientious conviction of its being greatly merited by the trouble, care, and danger of ſhoeing high ſpirited and refractory horſes, than experimental demonſtration, that GENEROSITY, founded upon the *baſis of equity*, will inevitably inſure its own reward. This is at leaſt a leſſon I have every right to inculcate, when I can affirm with the ſtricteſt veracity, I have never had a horſe ſuſ-

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tain the moſt trifling injury under the hands of the SMITH, nor ever a horſe *plated* but what proved a *winner*.

The trifling attention, the humane benefaction of a cooling beverage to allay thirſt in the exceſſive heat of ſummer, or the ſalutary interpoſition of an invigorating cordial to encounter the extreme ſeverity of froſt or ſnow in winter, are offices of kindneſs that in their viſible effects upon the *hand* and *hammer*, inſure beyond a doubt, the ſafety of the horſe and the reputation of the owner. The philanthropic influence of " doing as you would be done unto," is repaid with the moſt flattering intereſt; the ſame care and attention beſtowed upon the feet in ſhoeing, is extended in general tenderneſs to the ſafety of the whole frame upon all other profeſſional occaſions; if refractory or vicious, he is ſoothed by *kindneſs*, not provoked by *violence*; in ſhort, whatever fatigue enſues, whatever difficulty occurs, the execution is chearfully compleated, with a retroſpective reference to the perſevering hoſpitality of the MASTER, who living in an unvaried ſcene of uni-

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versal benevolence amidst his happy domestics, enjoys the very anticipation of his wishes in the chearful services of a long list of *old* and *faithful* dependents.

A contrast in character so exceedingly common, that it may be found in almost every parish in the kingdom, is perhaps well worthy the attention of those who may be at all interested in the description, or their different effects. The constant ill usage and violent abuse of horses, either *timid*, *vicious*, or *refractory*, under the hands of the operator, is a matter of sufficient notoriety to every man who has had occasion to superintend their practice; such cruelties require not to be sought after in remote corners by scrutinizing curiosity, they meet the eye of the TRAVELLER daily in the most public situations. No judicious observer, no *old groom*, or *young smith*, need be reminded what an infinity of fine and valuable horses go through a tedious task of misery in repeated *bleedings*, *mercurial purges*, *rowels*, and course of *alteratives*, for defects or diseases in the eyes, originating only in the cruel hand and heavy hammer of the SMITH, with

with the emphatical accompaniment of "*ſtand ſtill and be d——d to ye,*" when ſhifting and uneaſy under the operation of ſhoeing; a circumſtance that during a certain ſeaſon of the year, is frequently occaſioned by *flies only*, and conſequently to be removed with very little trouble either to the animal, or his *more inveterate perſecutor*.

This delineation may ſerve as an epitome of the many injuries ſuſtained from ſimilar acts of injuſtice, the true cauſes of which are never diſcovered or known but to the inhuman perpetrators; from ſevere blows with inſtruments of this kind (as hammer, pinchers, blood ſtick, &c.) frequently originate lameneſs in various parts, tumours, formations of matter, wounds, exfoliations, with others too numerous and probable for enumeration; all or either of which, are generally attributed to a different cauſe, or defect in the conſtitution, and treated accordingly. Injuries to the *eyes* and diſlodgement of the *teeth*, are however among the moſt common evils of this kind; which are in general tolerably reconciled to the too

great credulity of the owner, by the plausible fiction of the experienced adept in imposition, who is always prepared to report one the effect of a *kick*, the other a *bite*. Dangerous as these practices are to horses of any age or qualifications, they are doubly so to young ones; for a degree of severity and ill usage at their first and second shoeings, very frequently fixes in the disposition an habitual aversion to SMITHS, and a reluctance in approaching their *shops*, never after to be obliterated by any means whatever; and however opinions may clash upon the subject of extreme severity to horses, I shall continue to persevere in the truth of my former assertion,—if they are innately *timid*, *vicious*, or *restive*, unconditional violence alone will never make them better.

Having found it unavoidable to introduce remarks that are not only evidently connected with, but necessary to usher in the subject, we now proceed to such superficial knowledge of the operative part, as it is absolutely requisite every person should be in possession of, who wishes to understand, and retain the power to direct a method of

ſhoeing, beſt adapted to the foot and action of his own horſe. I never conſidered it at all neceſſary that a gentleman, ſportſman, tradeſman, or traveller, is to commence *blackſmith* in theory, and go through the rudiments of the trade to promote his intention; that has been hitherto the ſyſtematic mode of tuition: But when it is conſidered how very few will enter a wide field of abſtruſe ſtudy, to comprehend what he is told is a proper method of *ſhoeing his horſe*, it can create no ſurpriſe that it has been attended with ſo little ſucceſs.

My conception of the neceſſary knowledge is unequivocally this: Although every SMITH in profeſſional etiquette may be deemed an *artiſt*, I defy the force of *logic itſelf* to render every artiſt a *conjuror*; and as there muſt inevitably remain among the collateral deſcendants from VULCAN (as in moſt other profeſſions) ſome *prodigies of brightneſs*, who, incapable of diſtinguiſhing right from wrong, *ſhoe one horſe as they ſhoe another*, or, in plainer Engliſh, *ſhoe all alike*; ſuch diſcrimination becomes palpably uſeful, as will enable the owners to give conditi-

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onal directions for the eaſe and ſafety of his horſe, without relying entirely upon thoſe who will frequently be found to poſſeſs little or no judgment at all.

The greater part of thoſe writers who have favoured the public with a communication of their ſentiments upon this ſubject, ſeem extravagantly fond of an idea borrowed from antiquity, and transferred from one to another, upon the practicability of horſes travelling the road, and doing their conſtant work without any ſhoeing at all: Such œconomical plan may be admirably calculated for the *theoretical journey* of ſome literary ſpeculatiſt, up two or three pair of ſtairs in a remote corner of the metropolis; but I will venture to affirm, no ſuch excurſion can take place of any duration, without material injury to the HOOF, unleſs to the *high bred horſes of authors*, many of whom enjoy their journies as Bajazet enjoyed his cruelty, only "IN IMAGINATION."

One of theſe (OSMER) has introduced his remarks with the following rhapſodical expoſtulation:

 "When

"When time was young, when the earth was in a ſtate of nature, and turnpike roads as yet were not, the horſe needed not the aſſiſtance of this artiſt; for the divine artiſt had taken care to give his feet ſuch defence as it pleaſed him; and who is weak enough to ſuppoſe his wiſdom was not ſufficient to the purpoſe in ſuch a ſtate?"

He then proceeds to juſtify an opinion, that horſes are adequate to their different ſervices in a ſtate of *nature* without the officious obſtruſions of *art*; venturing to affirm that they "will travel even upon the turnpike roads about London, without injury to their feet." I avail myſelf of the preſent opening, to diſclaim every idea of attacking the remarks or opinions of others, from a motive of intentional oppoſition, or to indulge a vein of ſatire, that aſſertions ſo cynically ſingular and extraordinary naturally excite; and ſhall therefore introduce upon the preſent occaſion no other reflection than a certain ſenſation of ſurpriſe, that he did not inſinuate the palpable ſuperfluity or luxury of *ſhoes and ſtockings* to the natives of our own country, particularly when even the

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fair ſex of many neighbouring kingdoms convince us they can walk *equally upright* without.

In farther confirmation of the belief he wiſhes to eſtabliſh, he ſays, "we may every day ſee horſes, mares, and colts running about upon all ſorts of ground unſhod, and uninjured in their feet." This is certainly a truth too univerſally known even to be queſtioned; but by no means to be ſo far ſtrained in its conſtruction as to be rendered applicable (in a comparative view) to the ſtate of working horſes upon hard or ſtony roads, where the conſtant friction in riding, or the *fulcrum* in drawing, muſt inevitably prove injurious, if not totally deſtructive to the foot in general; producing *ſand-cracks, thruſh, bruiſes of the frog, formations of matter*, and other infirmities, as is very frequently the caſe, (when a ſhoe has been for ſome time caſt unobſerved by the rider;) conſtituting a blemiſh or defect in the ſubject never to be retrieved. Mares and colts, or horſes turned out to graſs without ſhoes, are generally kept upon low, moiſt, or marſhy

 ground,

ground, admirably adapted to preserve the foot in a growing state of perfection; the case is exceedingly different, and will bear no parallel with horses of the above description; nor can I hesitate to believe, but the absolute necessity of substantially guarding the foot, is too well established by immemorial experience, to be at all shaken by the introduction of any *new* opinions upon that part of the subject.

I must, to avoid a misconception of my purpose, before I proceed, confess my obligations as an individual to the memories of those gentlemen who have formerly attended to and written upon this head, with a desire to improve it for the promotion of a general good; and am sorry a total want of passive pliability in my own pen, will not permit me to adhere to the "*good old custom*" of implicitly transmitting to succeeding generations, the immaculate purity of *their* dictations, without presuming to introduce an opinion of my *own*.

"Learn to do well by others harm" is an axiom of too much excellence to be obliterated

literated from a memory replete with obſervant advantages ariſing from reflection. If I could become ſo ſubſervient to the faſhionable impulſe of literary ambition as to expect to be generally read, and after ſuch reading to be generally underſtood, I might enjoy much pleaſure in going over the deſcriptive confirmation of the *bones*, *tendons*, the *inner fleſhy*, and the *outer horny ſole*, the frog, and *cruſt* or *hoof*, with their different appropriations; but having the moſt indiſputable reaſon to believe, *that very abſtruſity of reaſoning*, and myſterious introduction of *technical terms*, have in a great degree prevented the reading of publications upon this ſubject, I ſhall (in earneſt hope of laying juſt claim to ſuperior attention) deſcend, like the orator in one of the celebrated Foote's comedies, "to the vale of *common ſenſe*, that I may be the better underſtood."

It has been the ſecondary conſideration of theſe ſpeculative writers, or theoretical ſportſmen, (ſuppoſing a perſeverance in the cuſtom of ſhoeing not to be aboliſhed upon the power of their perſuaſions) to propagate and re-echo a doctrine equally abſurd,

tending to what they *pretend to believe*, a proportional reformation in ſome part of the operation; viz. "That the *ſole* and *frog* of a horſe's foot need never be *pared at all.*" To take up as little of the readers time as the nature of the obſervation will admit, I ſhall very much contract what I wiſh to introduce more at large upon the inconſiſtency of the declaration; particularly, as theſe *refinements* ſeem brought forward more from a ſcarcity of matter, neceſſary to complete their arrangement of pages for the preſs, than the leaſt probable utility to be derived from remarks ſo erroneous in their formation.

Says the author before-mentioned in continuation of his aſſertions, borrowed from *La Foſſe*, "There is another reaſon equally obvious, which is, that the wiſdom of the creator intended this outer ſole, and its obduracy, as a natural and proper defence to the inner ſole, which lies immediately under the other, between that and the bone of the foot." He then proceeds, "If it be aſked what becomes of the ſole when not

pared?

pared? It dries, ſeparates, and ſcales away." In conciſe reply to this ſublime juſtification, and *very ſimple* explanation, I ſhould in any converſation with the writer, if he had not paſſed "that bourne from whence no traveller returns," have ſolicited a greater degree of candour in his opinion; Whether the *nails* were not furniſhed to our own frames by the "wiſdom of the Creator as a natural and proper defence" to parts of the moſt exquiſite ſenſibility? And whether the exuberant ſuperflux in conſtant growth was never to be reduced to the ſtandard of mediocrity, till every individual of the human ſpecies became a *voluntary Nebuchadnezzar*; becauſe upon the opinions of LA FOSSE, OSMER, and *others*, it would be the greateſt preſumption to ſuppoſe, "the divine artiſt" had left in any part of his works, the leaſt room for rectification?

We might certainly introduce with propriety, a ſucceſſion of ſimilies perfectly in point to render the idea ridiculous; reſiſting however the great temptation to animadvert upon palpable abſurdities, we come to the proof

proof of its "*drying*, *ſeparating*, and *ſcaling* away." The fact is not literally ſo, as may be corroborated by any judicious obſerver accuſtomed to examine the feet of horſes with the degree of accuracy and nice diſtinction, neceſſary to *juſtify* or *diſprove* any opinion that may be promulgated for public inveſtigation or improvement. It is a matter too well known to admit of momentary cavil, that the foot by being permitted to remain too long in its natural ſtate without reduction, acquires in its ſeveral parts the appearance of deformity; the hoof grows *long*, *narrow*, and *weak*; the *ſole*, as he ſays, ſeparates, (but in part only) and comes away in PARTIAL SCALES, leaving a rough, hard, uneven ſurface of *cavities* and *projections*; the frog becoming bruiſed, ragged, and putrefied, even to different degrees of lameneſs. This being the exact repreſentation of a foot left to growth in a rude and unimproved ſtate, the propriety or impropriety of judiciouſly paring *each part* to promote a correſponding firmneſs, and preſerve the neceſſary uniformity, can never become the ſubject of diſputation, but among thoſe whoſe intellectual faculties are abſorbed

abſorbed in ſuch an abundant flow of *imaginary matter*, as to render practical reſearches and ocular demonſtration too inſignificant for the condeſcending enquiries of ſuperior underſtandings.

Previous to a deſcription of the different kinds of feet, at leaſt the quality or texture of their formation, and the mode of SHOEING beſt adapted to each; a few words may be properly introduced upon the many horſes rendered *temporary cripples* by the injudicious or improper mode of forming or ſetting a ſhoe without a relative conſideration to the *ſhape* or *make* of the foot, or the *ſize* and *action* of the horſe. What renders the circumſtance ſtill more extraordinary is, that this error in judgment ſo conſtantly happens without the leaſt diſcovery by either owner or operator in their frequent ſurveys and tedious conſultations; and I am the more ſtrengthened in my confirmation of this fact, by the repeated inſtances, where the ceremonies of embrocating with thoſe *Vulcanian ſpecifics*, origanum and turpentine, have been perſevered

in

in (even to the acts of BLISTERING and ROWELLING) till by my desire *the shoe has been taken of*, when the cause has been instantly discovered and immediately removed.

This is a circumstance, that I doubt not has so frequently happened in the remembrance of every reader of experience, it can stand in no need of farther illustration; we therefore proceed to such description of the *exterior parts* immediately concerned in the operation of shoeing, as upon a superficial survey meet the eye of every inspector. These are, first, the *bottom* or *lower edge* of the HOOF, surrounding the whole extremity of the foot, not only as a safeguard and general defence against external injuries, but is the direct part to which the shoe is scientifically fixed, to effect the purposes for which it was generally intended. Secondly, the *horny* or OUTER SOLE, covering the entire bottom of the foot, except the FROG, which is situate in the center, (passing in a longitudinal direction from *heel to toe*,) and forms by its elasticity the fulcrum, or expanding basis of

of the tendon upon which the very action of the horſe depends.

Theſe are the external parts appearing upon the ſurface, that preſent themſelves to the ſpectator, and conſtitute in general all that he is ſuppoſed or required to know; remote conſiderations and operative conſequences appertaining much more to the profeſſional knowledge of the ARTIST than any acquired information of the OWNER.

Perfectly convinced that every man may judiciouſly ſuperintend, or properly direct the ſhoeing of his horſe, in a manner evidently adapted to his *foot*, *ſize*, *weight*, *purpoſe*, and *manner of going*, without the ill according intervention of an abſtruſe ſtudy very little attended to, (however elaborately urged) I forbear impoſition upon public patience, by any attempt to introduce an imitation or oblique copy of anatomical deſcriptive, ſo accurately delineated and deſcribed in the copper-plates and references of GIBSON and BARTLET, with, I am ſorry to ſay, *ſo little ſucceſs*; if I may be allowed to explain, by an opinion that the

Farriers

Farriers themſelves (a very inferior proportion excepted) ſeem to have imbibed no additional knowledge in equeſtrian anatomy, from ſtudies ſo laudably exerted and clearly explained.

We come next to an explanation of the different kinds of feet, as they appear in different ſubjects in their natural ſtate. Theſe may be defined under three diſtinct heads; the ſhort, ſound, *black*, ſubſtantial hoof; the ſhallow, long, weak, *white*, *brittle* hoof; and the deep, lax, *porous*, *ſpongy* hoof. Of theſe, the firſt is ſo evidently ſuperior, that unleſs by improper or unfair treatment, it hardly ever becomes the ſubject of diſeaſe. The next is carefully to be avoided in the purchaſe if poſſible, not only on account of their being more ſubject to *corns* than any other, but indicative in a great degree of conſtitutional delicacy in either horſe or mare, they not being ſo well enabled to bear hard work or conſtant fatigue. The laſt of the three is ſo equally inferior to the firſt, that from a variety of cauſes it is frequently productive of inceſſant attention, anxiety, diſeaſe, and lameneſs.

Having

Having taken a view of the kinds of feet that conſtantly paſs through the hands of the SMITH in his daily practice; and knowing the various ſtates and forms in which they become ſubject to his inſpection; it is abſolutely impoſſible in all that ever *has been* written or *can be* advanced, to lay down certain and invariable rules for the exact management of *this*, or the direct treatment of *that particular foot*, without a conditional reference to the judicious eye and diſcretional hand of the OWNER or OPERATOR. It muſt prove palpably clear to every enlightened enquirer, that no opinion or directions *ſtrictly infallible* can be communicated through the medium of the preſs, applicable to every particular purpoſe, without proportional contribution from the judgment of the parties concerned, to give the ground work of *conditional information* its proper effect.

Such inſtructions, however *accurately deſcribed*, muſt unavoidably remain ſubject to contingent deviations, regulated entirely by the ſtate of the foot and circumſtances of the caſe;

caſe; in a multiplicity of which, ſo many unexpected variations occur, as renders one fixed mode of ſhoeing abſolutely impracticable with *every kind of horſe*, notwithſtanding what may have been hitherto advanced from SUPPOSED HIGH AUTHORITY to the contrary.

There are, nevertheleſs, ſome general rules in the proper ſyſtem of ſhoeing and preſerving the feet, not to be eaſily miſtaken by folly or perverted by ignorance, that ſhall be ſubmitted to conſideration before we take leave of the ſubject before us; previous to which, ſome part of M. LA FOSSE's obſervations, ſo ſtrenuouſly recommended by BARTLET, become well worthy the attention of every gentleman or ſportſman, who may wiſh to aſſiſt his judgment in the enquiry, and enable himſelf to decide *impartially*, upon the propriety or impropriety of having his horſe ſhod upon principles that has ſtood hitherto incontroverted, from a fear (I ſuſpect) of arraigning authorities, the dread of whoſe names may have deterred many practitioners of eminence from ſo deſirable a purpoſe.

I have

I have more than once asserted my determination to interfere as little as possible with the opinions or instructions of former writers, but where it became unavoidably necessary to establish an opposite opinion, or corroborate a fact. It is a matter of some surprise that authors of eminence, who are naturally supposed to be "armed at all points," should be so incautiously off their guard, as to contradict themselves in the very act and emulation of conveying tuition to others. I have given a most striking instance of this error in my former volume, upon the inadvertency of OSMER, who repeatedly says, with the *greatest confidence* and *seeming belief*, "Tendons are unelastic bodies;" and frequently, in the same or the very next page, tells you, "*the tendon was elongated.*" I believe such assertion is of a complection too paradoxical to require from me the most trifling elucidation.

Passing over this *privilege of authors* with no other remark than bare remembrance, I come directly to the analyzation of as palpable a professional contradiction broached by LA FOSSE, and given to the public by BARTLET, in the true spirit of implicit and

 enthusiastic

enthusiastic obedience. These Gentlemen have in succession, after going over (as before observed) a great deal of unnecessary ground totally unintelligible to the *sporting world*, endeavoured to convince us, that *paring the sole or frog*, is not only unnecessary, but absolutely prejudicial; for, say they, to establish a credulous confirmation of their erroneous conjecture, "if you pare away the sole or frog in any degree, the more you pare, the farther you take from the ground the support of the tendon, which so entirely depends upon the elasticity of the frog." If any one person living could be found so unexpectedly ignorant as to pare the *foot partially* (that is, all behind and none before) such effect might probably ensue, but surely no rational observer will attempt to deny or disprove a palpable demonstration, that all parts of the foot being *equally pared*, (that is, the HOOF, SOLE, and FROG,) the centre of support and action must be still the same.

But was it really as they have said; if what they have so *learnedly advanced* was literally and justly true, what do they immediately do after this judicious and dictatorial

torial decision? Why, strongly recommend, with the full force of theoretic persuasion, the introduction of a mode of shoeing *directly contradictory* to the opinion just recited; that may be perfectly adapted to and coincide with the sentiments of any writer in the act of amusing *himself*, employing the *Printer*, and deceiving the *Public*; but can never be brought into general practice, without perpetual hazard to the horse, and imminent danger to the rider. This is so perfectly clear, that I will go very far beyond bare literary assertion, and be bound to stake both property and professional reputation, upon the certain failure of their improved proposition of shoeing, with what they call their half moon shoe, with all its boasted advantages. A long chain of remarks in opposition is by no means necessary, a very concise and candid investigation will afford ample proof of their having reconciled (in compliment to their patient readers) as palpable contradictions in description as OSMER, whose "unelastic tendon" was immediately after "elongated."

You are given to understand (as I have

 before

before obſerved) that in their opinion, if you pare the *ſole* or *frog*, you prevent the heel of the horſe from coming into conſtant contact with the ground; and the tendon is deprived of the elaſtic aſſiſtance of the frog to promote its expanſion and contraction. This is at leaſt the exact purport of their deſcription, if not given in the very ſame language, and is very well entitled to the deliberate attention of thoſe who wiſh to underſtand accurately the ſtate of the tendon (or back ſinews) when in the *Stabularian tongue* they are ſaid to be "*let down*."

Such a paring and hollowing out of the heel as they ſeem to deſcribe, muſt be a moſt unmerciful deſtruction of parts, and what I believe can ſeldom happen in the preſent age, unleſs in the remote and leaſt improved parts of the kingdom. Concluding, however, they took only a conjectural ſurvey of this matter, I muſt beg leave to obſerve, that immediately after reprobating the idea of raiſing the frog from the ground by *paring*, they ſtrenuouſly recommend a much more certain method of producing *the very evil* they tell you they wiſh *to prevent*. And this by

raiſing

raising all the fore part of the foot, with "the half moon shoe, set on to the middle of the hoof," not only forming an irregular and preternatural surface, but (by a want of length and support at the heel) constituting an unavoidable chance of relaxing the sinews in the perpetual probability of their being extended beyond the *elastic power* prescribed by nature.

This difference of opinion becomes so immediately connected with a particular passage in my former volume (upon the subject of "*strains*,") that it is absolutely necessary to quote a few lines for the better comprehension of the case before us; for I have there said, "To render this idea so clear that it cannot be misunderstood, let us suppose that a horse is going at his rate, and in so doing his toe covers a prominence, or the edge of one, where the heel *has no support*, it consequently extends the tendons beyond the distance afforded by nature, and instantly constitutes what is called a letting down of the back sinews," a circumstance that constantly happens upon the turf in run-

ning for a heat, and the horſe is then ſaid to have "broken down."

This deſcription comes ſo directly in point with the ſhape and ſtate of the horſe's foot in *their mode of ſhoeing*, that the horſe muſt be at all times liable to ſudden lameneſs, and more particularly at the riſing of *every hill*, where his foot would be exactly in the ſituation by which I have deſcribed ſtrains to be acquired. Every reader at all acquainted with, or having even a *tolerable idea* of the anatomical ſtructure of the leg and foot, by taking a comparative view of the mode of ſhoeing recommended, and the evident manner of ſuſtaining an injury in the *back ſinews*, (as they are termed) will be ſufficiently enabled to decide upon the *conſiſtency* of the propoſed plan, and, I flatter myſelf, enough convinced of the danger, to coincide with me in opinion, that a horſe ſhod in this manner, to cover a hilly country either in *a journey* or *the chace*, muſt inevitably fall *dead lame* from a relaxation of the tendinous parts; or, even in a low flat country, become ſo exceedingly weary from a want of proper ſupport for the heel,

that

that he could never be able to go through a ſecond day's fatigue without an alteration in his favour.

Eſtabliſhing this as a fact not to be controverted by the fallacious effect of ſpeculative rumination, and perfectly convinced neither entertainment or utility can be derived from farther tedious explanatory remarks and obſervations upon the inconveniencies of ſuch mode of ſhoeing, as well as the numerous difficulties not to be ſurmounted if inadvertently encountered; I ſhall only ſlightly inſinuate the abſolute *impoſſibility* of hunting or travelling (particularly in the rainy ſeaſons) in various hilly or chalky parts of the kingdom, without the accumulated probabilities of lameneſs to the horſe, continual danger to the rider, and the inevitable certainty of bruiſing the heel and frog to a degree of diſeaſe, which muſt prove the reſulting evil even upon the flatteſt and beſt turnpikes; but in the rough and ſtony roads, or ſtrong and dry hard clays, ſuch events may be expected as totally unavoidable.

Bidding adieu to a mode of ſhoeing cal-

culated only for the soft and artificial flooring of a FRENCH RIDING SCHOOL, we come to such considerations as are adapted to the state of our own roads, the customs of our country, and the intellectual faculties of those to whose scientific skill the malleability of the metal, the important use of the butteris, the judicious formation of the shoe, and the equally decisive direction of the nail, are universally entrusted. Adverting for a moment to the before-mentioned allusion to OSMER'S observation upon these men, who say, "they do not want to be taught," it is very natural to suppose, from the professional knowledge *they should have acquired* by strict attention and steady experience, that they CANNOT "want to be taught;" but that their judgment, founded upon the best basis, *manual art*, and *ocular inspection*, OUGHT TO BE very much superior to any theoretical instructions that can be obtruded or enforced. Under that persuasion, and feeling for those *few* who have industriously rendered themselves adequate to all the difficulties of the trade, I feel no surprise that such spirited expostulations should be made, as must frequently happen in reply to many pedantic

pedantic consequential pretenders, who by their *futile remarks* and *ignorant instruction*, excite the jealous irritability of men, who, conscious of their own ability and integrity, possess (like Hotspur) too much innate spirit and personal courage to be perpetually pestered by "a popping jay."

It has been before observed, that many horses have undergone various operations for *supposed lamenesses* in different parts, when TIME, and the lucky interposition of a judicious opinion, have discovered the cause to be (where it is too seldom accurately searched for) in the foot. Lameness of this description proceeds in general from some one or other of the following causes; the nail holes for the fastening of the shoe to the foot being inserted too far from the outer edge, in the web of the shoe, and consequently, when *tight clinched*, bearing too hard upon the fleshy edge of the inner sole, constitutes a preternatural compression upon the internal parts and consequent impediment to ease or action.

Another cause exceedingly common, (when the

the horſe is ſaid to be pricked in ſhoeing) is the oblique direction of a nail, which taking an improper and inverted courſe, either perforates, or in its progreſs preſſes upon the inner ſole, puncturing ſome of the ſoft parts, thereby producing certain lameneſs; which not immediately diſcovered, tends to inflammation, that too often terminates in a remote formation of matter conſtituting a caſe of the moſt ſerious conſequence.

A third cauſe is the inconſiſtent method of forming the web of the ſhoe too wide for the foot of the horſe, and raiſing it ſo much, or hollowing it out all round *the inner edge*, as to give it a palpable *convexity* when fixed to the hoof; by this convexity round the inner edge of the web, the ſupport becomes unnaturally partial, and even in the conſtant weight of the horſe only (without recurring to action) conſtitutes an oppoſition to its original purport; for the invariable preſſure upon the curved part of the ſhoe only, muſt raiſe in the ſurrounding parts ſuch a proportional counteraction, that the harder the horſe bears *in action* upon a hard ſurface, the more muſt every motion tend to force

the

the very nails from their hold, but that the clinches prevent their being withdrawn: In this ſtate the horſe, though not abſolutely lame, limps in perpetual uneaſineſs, till the clinches of the nails are ſo relaxed as to bring the centre nearly to a level with the reſt of the foot, where it frequently forms an additional cauſe to the original ill, by coming into cloſe contact with the ſole, which *preſſing upon* with any degree of ſeverity, occaſions a ſlight lameneſs that becomes immediately perceptible.

Another very common cauſe of lameneſs with horſes of this deſcription originates in the ſhoes being formed *too ſhort* and *narrow* at the heel, by which means, in leſs than a week's conſtant wear, the hoof (or "*cruſt*," as ſome writers have termed it for the ſake of refinement) being alſo *narrow*, the heels of the ſhoes make gradual impreſſion and conſtitute a palpable indentation upon the edge of the ſole, directly over its articulation with the hoof, producing to a certainty, if perſevered in, the foundation of *corns*, or a temporary lameneſs, that is generally removed by removing the ſhoe.

A few

A few additional bad effects, but of inferior consequence, resulting from injudicious ſhoeing, may be conciſely ranged under the heads of raiſing the *ſhoes too high in the heels* without due diſcrimination, throwing the fetlock joint into a diſtortive poſition; *corns ill treated* or *horſes ill ſhod*, to occaſion the imperfection of *cutting* either before or behind, an evil ariſing much more from want of profeſſional accuracy in the operator, than any abortive effort in the proceſs of NATURE. Theſe are, however, mere ſuperficial inconveniencies, to be remedied by ſuch attention and circumſpection as no one friend to the animal we treat of will ever refuſe to beſtow.

Rules for the prevention or cure of theſe, are luckily calculated by their brevity for communication or retention. The heels of horſes ſhould never be artificially raiſed only inexact proportion to the ſtate of their feet, the ſeaſon of the year, and their manner of going, not without ſome additional reference to the road or country they generally travel; all which, every SMITH of the leaſt eminence ſhould perfectly underſtand from *practical experience*, without a long table of conditional

ditional inſtructions to fix a criterion, which muſt, after all the ſpeculative matter or experimental knowledge that can be introduced, be regulated by the exerciſe of his own profeſſional penetration, or the perſonal ſuperintendance of thoſe, whoſe inſtructions it muſt be his intereſt to obey.

Corns, in general occaſioned much more by the unobſerved ſtricture of the *ſhoe* (as before deſcribed) than any defect in nature, are not ſufficiently attended to in their earlieſt ſtate for ſpeedy obliteration; but permitted to acquire by time and continuance of the cauſe, a rigid calloſity before the leaſt attempt is made for extirpation; during which inattention they become ſo inflexibly firm in their baſis, that they are not eaſily to be eradicated, though great care and perſeverance will greatly aſſiſt their mitigation if not entirely eſtabliſh their cure.

The beſt and moſt conſiſtent method is to reduce it with the drawing knife, as much as the extent of the corn and the depth of the ſole will admit, obſerving no to ex eed the bounds of diſcretion in penetrating the horny

horny ſole *too deeply*, rendering by a ſtep of imprudence, the remedy worſe than the diſeaſe. When it is thus reduced as much as the ſtate of the corn and the texture of the foot will juſtify, let the entire deſtruction of it be attempted by the occaſional application of a few drops of *oil of vitriol* over its whole ſurface; or its rapidity of growth reſtrained by the aſſiſtance of GOULARD's *extract of ſaturn*, *traumatic* (commonly called Friar's) *balſam*, camphorated ſpirits of wine, or tincture of myrrh.

This being performed, if the vacuum is *large* or *deep* from whence the ſubſtance has been extracted, and the operator has been under the neceſſity of nearly perforating the outer ſole, ſo as to be productive of additional tenderneſs to the original cauſe of complaint; care muſt be taken to prevent the inſinuation of extraneous ſubſtances of different kinds, as *ſtones*, *gravel*, *dirt*, or ſuch other articles as may very much irritate and injure the part. This is beſt effected by plugging up the cavity with a pledget of *tow*, firſt hardening the ſurface well with one of the before-mentioned ſpirituous applications; remembering not to inſert the tow too cloſely to

deſtroy

deſtroy its elaſtic property, forming a hardneſs from its abundance, that may painfully preſs upon the tender part it is deſigned to defend.

It has long been an eſtabliſhed practice after drawing *a corn*; an injury ſuſtained in any part of the *hoof*, cauſing a partial defect; or a diſeaſed ſtate of the *frog*, as inveterate *thruſh*, &c. to protect the part with a *bar ſhoe* formed and adapted to ſuch purpoſe: This is certainly a conditional ſecurity, but there is ſtill the ſpace between the *foot* and the *ſhoe* to receive and retain any ſubſtance, that may become injurious by its lodgment and painful preſſure as before-mentioned. To prevent the poſſibility of which, I ſhould always recommend (in caſes that require it) the inſinuation of a ſufficient quantity of tow to fill up the interſtice; and that its retention there might be rendered a matter of greater certainty, it ſhould be well impregnated with a portion of *diachylon with the gums*, firſt melted over the fire; this will not only fill up the opening with neatneſs *(properly managed)* but form a *bolſter of eaſe* to the part, and exclude to a certainty the admiſſion of articles we have juſt deſcribed.

The

The *cutting* of horſes is in general attributed to ſome impropriety in the mode of forming or ſetting the ſhoe; though this is by no means to be conſidered the *invariable* cauſe for ſuch inconvenience is ſometimes produced by very different means. Horſes, for inſtance, frequently injure themſelves when in too long and repeated journies they become *leg weary*, and though of great ſpirit and bottom, compulſively ſubmit to the power of exhauſted nature; when hardly able to get one foot before the other, it can create no ſurpriſe that they feel it impoſſible to proceed in equal direction, but move their limbs in the moſt irregular manner, *warping* and *twiſting*, as if their falling muſt prove inevitable at every ſucceſſive motion. In ſuch ſtate of bodily debilitation, injuries of this kind are undoubtedly ſuſtained, and too often by the inadvertency or inexperience of the rider or driver, ſuppoſed to ariſe from ſome imperfection in the operation of ſhoeing, which in this inſtance is no way concerned.

It is not ſo in others, where the ſhoe being formed too wide for the *hoof*, or with a projecting ſweep at the *heel*, (particularly in

horſes,

horſes, who from an irregular ſhape of the foot, called *turning out the toe*, are addicted to a kind of curve in action againſt the fetlock joint of the other leg) the evil is conſtituted to a certainty; but when it ariſes from theſe cauſes, it is always to be removed or greatly mitigated by the judicious interpoſition of the SMITH, whoſe particular province it is to diſcover and remedy the defect.

Another cauſe of this inconvenience very frequently proceeds from what I have ever conſidered a palpable abſurdity in the ſyſtem of ſhoeing, and anxiouſly wiſh it to undergo a general improvement: This is the *inconſiſtent*, *ridiculous*, and I may almoſt venture to add *invincible* folly of forming a *groove* in the web of the ſhoe, neither large enough nor deep enough to admit the head of the nail, for the entire reception of which the plan was originally formed; though ſeldom or ever made ſufficiently wide to complete the purport of its firſt intention.

The diſadvantages ariſing from this want (or proſtitution) of judgment in execution, is

 not

not more the irregular ſurface of the foot, upon a *hard road* or *pavement*, throwing it unavoidably into a variety of unnatural poſitions by the heads of ſome nails being ridiculouſly high or projecting from the ſhoe, and others as much below them, than the certainty of all the clinches being raiſed in a very few days uſe by the weight and action of the horſe, which on the inſide of each foot conſtitute the evil to a degree of ſeverity with horſes that go cloſe, particularly if permitted to remain long in ſuch ſtate unattended to. Upon expoſtulation, you are told, "this is a matter of no inconvenience, that they will ſoon be worn down and become equal." If ſuch aſſertion was to be admitted without oppoſition reſpecting the irregularity of the ſurface, and diſtortive poſitions of the foot, it by no means affects the certainty of rendering the clinches not only evidently injurious in the degree before recited, but of little utility (after a few days wear) in ſecuring the ſhoe in the ſituation it was originally placed.

This is a circumſtance ſo exceedingly clear, that every rational obſerver, poſſeſſing a deſire to promote general improvement, will coincide

cide with me in opinion, and aſſiſt the recommendation by the force of example; in having the groove in the web of the ſhoe, for the reception of the nails, formed ſufficiently wide and deep to admit the heads nearly or quite equal with the flat ſurface of the ſhoe, by which effectual inſertion the ſhoe firmly retains its ſituation, and the nails their clinches, till a repetition of the operation becomes neceſſary.

There are (as I have before hinted an intention of explaining) ſome general rules to be remembered, as invariably applicable to all kinds of feet without exception. The ſhoe ſhould be uniformly ſupported by the *hoof only*, entirely round the foot, and brought ſo regularly into contact, that it ſhould not preſs more upon one part than another; it ſhould alſo be formed with a concave inner ſurface to keep it perfectly clear of the *ſole*, that the point of the picker may occaſionally paſs under the inner part of the web, to free it from every extraneous or injurious ſubſtance. The ſhoe ſhould not be made too wide in the web, or too weighty in metal,

for the ſize or purpoſe of the horſe; if ſo, the inſertion of the nails become unavoidably neceſſary nearer the edge of the fleſhy, or inner ſole, and the compreſſion upon the internal parts proportionally greater, in the additional hold required, to prevent the inner edge of the web from ſinking directly, *by conſtant preſſure*, upon the centre of the outer ſole, conſtituting certain uneaſineſs in action, if not perceptible lameneſs. The heel of the ſhoe ſhould always rather exceed the termination of the hoof behind, and be formed ſomething *wider* than the heel itſelf; not only to conſtitute a firm baſis of ſupport for the frame, and prevent the *indentation* before deſcribed, but to afford room for the requiſite growth and expanſion of the heel, if a well formed ſound foot is at all the object of attention.

The hoofs of horſes ſhould never be ſuffered to grow *too long at the toe*; for excluſive of its ſoon conſtituting a flat, weak, narrow foot, it is not uncommonly productive of *ſtumbling* and *tumbling*, to the no great entertainment, but certain danger of the rider; and this frequent error in the preſent practice

practice of shoeing is the more extraordinary, as the very form, length, and texture of the hoof, will always afford sufficient information in how great a degree it will bear reduction, with the additional consideration, in point of effect, that shortening *the toe* will always proportionally *widen*, and give strength to the *heel*.

Horses said to be "fleshy footed," are those whose inner and outer sole are found to be too large in proportion to the substance of the hoof that surrounds them; or, in other words, (to render it clear as possible) whose hoof is too thin at the lower edge, or bottom, for the size of the whole. This may be productive of inconvenience, and requires a nicer discrimination in the mode of forming the groove in the web, as well as in fixing the shoe; for the space upon which it must be unavoidably fixed (without an alternative) is so exceedingly narrow, that the greatest care and attention is absolutely necessary to bring the nails so near the edge of the hoof, as to avoid every probable chance of injury by too great a stricture upon the component parts;

a matter that has been already more than once concisely recommended to *practical* circumspection.

That such hazard may be the better avoided, it will be found an insurance of safety; to advance the *front nails* nearer to the extremity of the TOE, where the seat of insertion is much *wider*, and bring the *hinder nails* farther from the points of the HEEL, where it is not only directly the reverse, but sometimes too narrow to admit of the insertion without danger. And in all cases where horses are remarkably full and flesh footed, with a heel exceedingly narrow, it is certainly the safest method to let them be shod with the nails entirely round the front of the foot, omitting their insertion in a proportional degree behind.

LA FOSSE, echoed by BARTLET, condemns the custom of turning up the shoe *at the heels*, upon the before-mentioned objection of its "removing the frog to a greater distance from the ground, by which the tendon will be inevitably ruptured;" but could they now become spectators of the

hundreds

hundreds of poſt horſes conſtantly running the roads with BAR SHOES, that totally preclude the *poſſibility* of the *frogs touching the ground*, to ſupport ſuch elaſticity, they might be convinced what little reſpect ſuch aſſertion muſt be held in, under a demonſtration exceeding all contradiction. Nor is this retroſpective remark brought forward upon any other motive, than to juſtify the great conſiſtency and ſafety of judiciouſly raiſing the heels of the ſhoes, to defend frogs that have been bruiſed, or are naturally defective, and heels that are flat and narrow; as well as to inſure the ſafety of the rider, and prevent the ſlipping of horſes, which muſt otherways become inevitable in rainy ſeaſons upon chalky roads or hilly countries.

Adverting once more to their promulgation upon "the inconſiſtency of ever paring the ſole or frog," I muſt avail myſelf of the preſent opening to make one addition to my former obſervations upon that part of the ſubject; recommending it to the attention of every breeder, to make occaſional inſpections of the feet even *when yearlings*, and in their progreſſive gradations, to prevent

their acquiring an ill conformation: By a want of proper correction they will very frequently be found ſpreading to a long flat thin foot, which left to time, will become irrecoverably weak; on the contrary, proportionally pared at the *bottom*, ſhortened at the *toe*, and rounded with the raſp, will conſtitute the very kind of foot in ſhape and firmneſs of all others the moſt deſirable.

Before we entirely diſmiſs this ſubject, a few remarks upon the management of the feet in *ſtabled horſes*, cannot be conſidered inapplicable to our preſent purpoſe of general utility. Firſt, it ſhould be remembered, an equal inconvenience ariſes from having horſes unneceſſarily ſhod *too often*, or the ceremony poſtponed *too long*; the former, by its frequency, batters and breaks the hoof (particularly if of the brittle kind) to a perceptible degree of injury; the latter promotes an aukward growth of the foot, an indentation of the ſhoe upon the ſole, or inner edge of the hoof, and a probable deſtruction of the frog.

Various opinions may have been ſupported upon

upon the propriety of ſtopping and oiling the feet; but as it is not my preſent purpoſe to animadvert upon the diffuſe remarks of others, I ſhall confine myſelf to practical obſervations of my own. The ſalutary effects of plentifully oiling, and nightly ſtopping, the ſubſtantial, firm, black and white brittle hoofs, deſcribed in a former page, are too firmly eſtabliſhed by long and attentive experience, to render oppoſition (from any authority whatever) worthy a momentary conſideration or condeſcending reply.

A comparative ſtate of the hoof that is carefully managed in this way, with one in its ſtate of nature, (more particularly in the hot and dry months of ſummer) will evidently beſpeak the advantage and neatneſs of ſuch care and attention. In one, the hoof is always in a ſtate of pliable uniformity; in the other, a harſh, conſtant, and irregular ſcaling of the ſole, an almoſt inflexible rigidity of the hoof in ſhoeing, and moſt frequently very large and dangerous cracks that ſeparate the *ſole* from the *frog* on both ſides; leaving ample room *on either* for the inſinu-

ation

ation of ſand, gravel, or other injurious articles that may by their retention reach the coronary articulation, conſtituting irreparable lameneſs too frequently attributed to every cauſe but the right.

Having gone through ſuch chain of inveſtigation, and courſe of inſtruction, upon the ſubject of ſhoeing, and its effects, as I conceive to be at all calculated to aſſiſt the general judgment of thoſe whoſe equeſtrian purſuits render ſuch knowledge an object of importance; I ſhall proceed to that kind of communication, as I flatter myſelf will be equally acceptable to thoſe who do me the honor of peruſal and attention, whether for amuſement, information, literary diſquiſition, or to render the influence of example, more preferable to precept, by a contribution of their perſonal aſſiſtance to the promotion of general improvement,

STABLING

Will prove a chapter more immediately appertaining to the proprietors of extenſive receptacles in the metropolis, as well as other large cities, and thoſe intereſted in their effects; than at all applicable to the preſent improved ſtate of gentlemen's ſtables in every part of the kingdom, where the mode of management is approaching too near a degree of perfection to admit the aid of inſtruction, from either the pen of theoretic information, or practical experience. As it will, however, be unavoidably neceſſary to introduce under this head, ſuch occaſional remarks or uſeful obſervations as cannot with propriety appear under any other, hints may perhaps be diſcovered, in which every reader may feel himſelf *in ſome degree* individually concerned.

The very inferior ſtate of action and appearance, ſo viſibly predominant in horſes of frequent uſe, from the large public livery ſtables, when put into competition with hunters

ters or hacks, enjoying the advantage of regular *food*, *dressing*, *air*, and *exercise*, will constitute all the apology I think it necessary to introduce, for any degree of freedom I may be inclined to offer, in drawing a comparison very little observable by METROPOLITAN HEROES ON HORSEBACK, but universally known to the discriminating eye of every experienced sportsman in the kingdom.

Such inferiority arises from an accumulation of causes, very little considered or enquired into by the owners, or riders, who philosophically define and experimentally demonstrate, the horse to be an animal of general utility, and appropriate him to all their different purposes accordingly; with as little attention to his *colour*, *perfections*, or *defects*, as a tradesman of Manchester, who having some few years since occasion to attend the assizes at Lancaster, hired *a grey gelding* for the purpose, but unluckily returned with *a bay mare*, and obstinately persisted (in opposition to every witness and expostulation) that he had brought back *the very horse* and equipments with which he

had

had ſtarted, in obedience to the legal injunction he had received. Of theſe equeſtrian Quixotes, nature has been ſo exceedingly liberal, that we find numbers, who, when their ſteed is brought out of the ſtable, whether in *high* or *low* condition, *ſee or not ſee*, *ſwelled legs*, *cracked heels*, *ſhoes* or *no ſhoes*, his carcaſe expanded to its *utmoſt extent*, or contracted to a degree of *unprecedented poverty*; mount him with equal unconcern, and go through their journey, long or ſhort, as prompted by neceſſity or inclination, without a ſingle reflection upon the wants or weakneſſes of the animal, unluckily deſtined to receive the honor of ſo *humane* an appendage.

In ſuch unaccountable ſtate of negligence, ſtands many a valuable horſe ſurrounded with an accumulation of ills, and hourly promotion of miſery from one week's end to another, and never enjoys the favour (if I may ſo term it) of his maſter's preſence but of a *Sunday morning*; when making the expeditious tour of *Richmond*, *Hampton Court*, *Windſor*, or ſome other of the faſhionable excurſions, he is conſigned to his uſual hebdomadal *dark abode*

abode, of inactivity, to enjoy a profusion of *hay, water, and ease*; but, in conformity with the idea of Major O'Flaherty, "a plentiful scarcity of every thing else."

It is impossible for any man living, who has made these creatures, *their wants, gratifications, perfections*, and *attachments*, the object of his contemplation, not to feel the greatest mortification when chance or choice brings him to a survey of the stables in London, with all their horrid inconveniences. To those totally unacquainted with the superior and systematic management of stables in general, it may all bear the appearance of PROPRIETY, consequently paves no way for the corroding reflections of vexation and disappointment; but to the experienced and attentive observer, whose sensations move in direct unison with the feelings of the animal he bestrides, and the accommodation of whose horse is held in equal estimation and retention with his own, they excite the joint emotions of pity and surprise.

Horses in general, produced from stables of this description, all bear the appearance of

temporary

temporary invalids or confirmed valetudinarians; from living or rather exiſting in a ſcene of almoſt total darkneſs, they approach the light with reluctance, and every new object with additional apprehenſion. They walk or rather totter out of the ſtable in a ſtate of debilitation and ſtiffneſs of the extremities, as if threatened with univerſal lameneſs. The legs are ſwelled from the knees and hocks downwards, to the utmoſt expanſion of the integument; which with the dry and contracted ſtate of the *narrow heeled hoof*, bears no ill affinity to the overloaded ſhoe of AN OPULENT ALDERMAN, when emerging from the excruciating admonitions of a gouty monitor. Upon more accurate inſpection, we find the liſt of happy effects ſtill increaſed with thoſe uſual concomitants, inveterate *cracks*, *running thruſh*, very frequently accompanied by a huſky ſhort cough, or aſthmatic difficulty of reſpiration, in gradual progreſſion to a broken wind; and the long liſt of inferior *et ceteras*, that conſtitute the *invariable advantages* of ſtable diſcipline, directly contrary to every eſtabliſhed rule that can be laid down for the promotion of EASE, HEALTH, and INVIGORATION.

In

In confirmation of which, without a tedious animadverſion upon ſo long a ſeries of inconſiſtencies, let us advert conciſely to the cauſes of ſuch ill effects as we have ventured to enumerate. The diſadvantages ariſing from horſes ſtanding in perpetual darkneſs, or with a very faint and glimmering light, muſt be too palpably clear to require much elucidation; for in ſuch ſtate, with the full and increaſed power of *hearing*, they are inceſſantly on the watch to diſcover, what ſo conſtantly effects *one ſenſe*, without the expected gratification of *the other*. To this eternal diſappointment may be attributed the alternate ſtare and twinkling of the eye-lids, ſo common to every deſcription of horſes that ſtand in the moſt remote part of dark ſtables, at each time of being brought forward to face the light; as well as the additional obſervation, that being accuſtomed to ſee things but imperfectly in the ſtable, when brought into action upon the road, they are ſo much affected by the change, that they become habitually addicted to *ſtop* or *ſtart* at every ſtrange or ſudden object that approaches. A certain danger alſo attends, when hurried by a careleſs or drunken oſtler, from the ex-

ternal

ternal glare of light to the extreme of total darkneſs; for in ſuch haſty tranſition, blows are frequently ſuſtained againſt the racks, ſtalls, or intervening partitions, that ſometimes terminate in the loſs of *an eye*, with no other cauſe aſſigned for its original appearance than the *fluctuation of humours*, which the ſuffering ſubject immediately undergoes repeated conſultations and a long courſe of medicines to eradicate.

The ſtiffneſs of the joints, the ſwelling of the legs, the ſeverity of the cracks, the frequency of the thruſh, the contraction of the hoofs, and the difficulty of reſpiration, are all ſo evidently the reſulting effects of deſtructive ſituation and erroneous management, that to the ſporting world alone, literary definition would be deemed ſuperfluous; but to that infinity of JUVENILE EQUESTRIANS, who are "daily riſing to our view," and wonder "why their horſes, that they keep *at ſo much expence*, are unlike moſt others they meet in their rural excurſions," ſuch explanation becomes matter of indiſpenſible neceſſity.

To the want of general cleanlineſs, pure air, and regular exerciſe, may be juſtly attributed all the ills we have juſt recited; and that ſuch aſſertion may lay impartial claim to proper weight in the ſcale of reflection, let it be firſt remembered, that horſes in the ſituation I allude to, are conſtantly living in certain degrees of heat, not only beyond the ſtate required by nature, but very far exceeding even the ſtable temperature of horſes in regular training for the turf.

That this may be the better underſtood by thoſe whoſe ſituations in life has precluded the chance of ſuch inſpection, and that great body of readers in various and diſtant parts of the kingdom, who *never have*, and perhaps *never may*, make a ſurvey of public ſtables in the metropolis; I think it neceſſary to introduce an exact repreſentation of *ſyſtematic inconſiſtency*, perfectly exculpated from even the ſlighteſt ſuſpicion of exaggeration. As I have repeatedly obſerved, and it is univerſally admitted, there is no rule without ſome exception; ſo the following deſcription may have *ſome* but VERY VERY FEW to boaſt of.

Upon

Upon entering the major part, (particularly if the door has been a few minutes closed and is opened for your admission) the olfactory and optic nerves are instantaneously assailed with the volatile effluvia of *dung* and *urine*, equal to the exhalation from a stock bottle of hartshorn at the shop of any Chemist in the neighbourhood. Here you find from ten or twelve, to twenty horses, standing as hot, and every crevice of the stable as closely stopped, as if the very external air was infectious, and its admission must inevitably propagate a contagion. Naturally inquisitive to discover what irritating cause has laid such hold of your most prominent feature, you observe each horse standing upon an enormous load of litter, that by occasional additions (without a regular and daily removal from the bottom) has acquired both the substance and property of a moderate *hot-bed*.

Thus surrounded with the vapours constantly arising from an accumulation of the most powerful volatile salts, stand these poor animals a kind of patient sacrifice to ignorance and indiscretion; and that the measure of

misery may be rendered perfect by every additional contribution of folly, each horse is absolutely loaded with a profusion of body cloths, but perhaps more to gratify the ostentation or display the opulence of the owner, than any intentional utility to the horse. The sheet, quarter piece, breast cloth, body roller, and perhaps *the hood*, are all brought forward to give proof of persevering attention and unremitting industry. In this state such horses are found upon critical examination, to be in an almost perpetual languid perspiration; so debilitated, depressed, and inactive, for want of pure air and regular exercise, that they appear dull, heavy, and inattentive, as if conscious of their imprisonment and bodily persecution.

The effect of this mode of treatment soon becomes perceptible to the judicious eye of observation; the carcase is seen unnaturally full and over loaded, for want of those gradual evacuations promoted by gentle motion; the legs swell, becoming stiff and tumefied, till nature, in her utmost efforts for extravasation, terminates in either *cracks, scratches, grease*, or some one of the many

disorders

diſorders ariſing from an impurity, viſcidity, or acrimony in the blood. The hoofs by being almoſt invariably fixed to the conſtant heat of the accumulating dung before deſcribed, acquires a degree of contraction indicating hoof-bound lameneſs. The eyes frequently give proof of habitual weakneſs, in a watery diſcharge from the continual irritation of the volatile effluvia, the dilatation and contraction of the eye in ſearch of light, the heat of the body, &c. all tending to conſtitute a frame directly oppoſite in health, vigour, and appearance, to thoſe whoſe *condition* is regulated by a very different ſyſtem of ſtabularian management.

The evils ariſing from this miſtaken treatment are only yet enumerated in part, being thoſe that evidently appear upon a ſuperficial ſurvey of the ſtables and their contents; others become diſcernible upon being brought into action. They are certainly leſs enabled to encounter fatigue than any horſes in the kingdom; from ſo conſtant an exiſtence in the *abſolute fumes of a hot bath*, they never can be expoſed to the external air in a *cold, wet*, or *winter* ſeaſon, without danger to

every part of the frame. By ſuch contraſt they are inſtantly liable to a ſudden collapſion of the porous ſyſtem, which locking up the perſpirative matter, ſo violently propelled to the ſurface, throws it back upon the circulation with redoubled force; where nature being too much overloaded to admit its abſorption, it becomes immediately fixed upon the EYES or LUNGS, laying a very ſubſtantial foundation of diſeaſe and diſquietude.

If ſuch horſe is put into ſtrong exerciſe, he ſoon proves himſelf inadequate to either a long, or an expeditious journey; for whether the body is over-burthened with weak and flatulent food and water at ſetting out, jaded with early fatigue, to which he has not been accuſtomed, or debilitated with the ſtable diſcipline we have ſo minutely deſcribed, the effect is nearly the ſame. If his journey is of any duration, or his exertions of any great magnitude, it is no uncommon thing to find he has fallen *ſick*, *lame*, or *tired* upon the road; and under the worſt of curſes, *a bad character*, is frequently ſold to the firſt bidder; under whoſe

ſyſtematic

ſyſtematic care and rational mode of management, a few months perhaps makes him one of the beſt and moſt valuable horſes in the kingdom.

This is a circumſtance that happens ſo very conſtantly in the equeſtrian fluctuation of fortune, and the aſſertion ſo repeatedly juſtified by occular demonſtration and practical experience, that I ſtand not in the leaſt fear of a contrariety of opinions upon ſo conſpicuous a part of the ſubject.

The ill effects of the ſtable treatment we have hitherto deſcribed, would be ſtill more injurious did *high feeding* conſtitute a part of the ſyſtem we preſume to condemn; but a *ſuper-abundance* of food is what I by no means place to the *inconſiſtency* of the account. Prudence (diveſted of *ſelf-intereſt*) powerfully prompts the parties concerned, to perceive *the abſurdity* of *over-feeding* horſes whoſe ſtate ſo little requires it. Stable keepers are not ſo deſtitute of PENETRATION, as to be taught by me, the *folly* of feeding horſes that "*don't work.*" OATS are not only unneceſſary but *ſuperfluous*; hay in

in *ſmall quantities* will ſupport nature ſufficiently, by a conſtant maſtication of which the appetite will be properly prepared to receive PLENTY OF WATER; an article that is not only of very little expence and trouble, but by expanding the frame, and filling the flank, will afford to the *city ſportſman* and *Sunday traveller*, ſufficient proof that the horſe is *amply fed*, and "*well looked after.*"

Having ſubmitted to conſideration the repreſentation of FACTS, that neither the intereſted *can*, or the experienced *will*, attempt to deny; I ſhall, (without much hope of effecting a reformation where ſo great a variety of opinions are concerned) beg permiſſion to offer a few remarks, for the attention of thoſe who are, from the nature of their ſituations, unavoidably connected with ſtables of this deſcription; leaving the more minute inſtructions for the management of hunters or road horſes, to be collected from the matter that will be hereafter introduced under thoſe heads.

The pernicious properties of *foul air* muſt be

be too well known, or at leaſt too readily comprehended, (by every one to whoſe ſerious peruſal theſe pages will become ſubject) to require even the moſt ſuperficial elucidation; though in fact, entering into its deſtructive effects, with all its contingent conſequences, would be to *write*, *quote*, and animadvert a volume upon the ſubject; which is in fact of too much ſcientific magnitude for preſent diſquiſition, in a publication that promiſes to be generally read, and it is intended ſhould be as generally underſtood.

Under palpable conviction of the numerous ills that may ariſe in different ways from air ſo very much contaminated, and replete with impurities, I am convinced no one advocate for improvement can rationally object to the adoption of VENTILATORS in all public ſtables, where the ſituation is inevitably confined; as in London, and other large cities, where they muſt unavoidably continue ſo without the moſt diſtant probability of rectification.

The utility, the convenience, the exhilirating

rating rays of "ALL CHEARING LIGHT," (that enables us to enjoy ſociety, for which we were formed) is a matter ſtanding in no need of *tedious* recommendation; it therefore cannot be too forcibly inculcated, or too chearfully adopted.

Cleanlineſs is ſo indiſputably neceſſary to health and invigoration, that it is matter of ſurpriſe how ſo palpable a ſyſtem of filth could ever be permitted to pervade the equeſtrian receptacles of thoſe who would, no doubt, be exceedingly hurt and offended, if they were to have the inconſiſtencies of their conduct perſonally demonſtrated, and be compulſively convinced they either *do not know* or *ſeem to care* any thing about the matter. In fact, there is but one reaſon that can be urged, (and none with ſo much energy as thoſe prompted by ſelf-intereſt) in favour of a practice replete with ſo many diſadvantages; this muſt be the high price and difficulty of obtaining ſtraw in the metropolis, which in it is transformation to manure becomes ſo reduced to a mere nothingneſs in value, that the *poſſibility* of being

ing cleanly in thoſe ſtables (we are told) is abſolutely precluded by pecuniary conſiderations. But when the fixed emoluments of the *weekly keep* are taken into the aggregate, and it is not the effect of rumination but matter of fact, that many of the horſes *ſo kept*, are from want of exerciſe, and the numerous cauſes before aſſigned, ſo very much OFF THEIR APPETITES, as not to conſume in a day but *one* or *two* of the *four feeds* of corn that are charged; an extra truſs of ſtraw from the loft LIBERALLY EXCHANGED for each buſhel and a half of oats *accidentally* ſaved in the granary, would certainly prove no violent proſtitution of generoſity!

EXERCISE

IS a matter of too much importance in the promotion of health and condition to be excluded its place in our preſent arrangement; and ſo evidently neceſſary to the natural ſecretions and regular evacuations, that the foundation of every diſeaſe may be laid by

by a want of it. Horſes are in their very nature and diſpoſition ſo formed for motion, that they become dull, heavy, and unhealthy without it; of this nothing can afford greater demonſtration than the pleaſure they diſplay in every action, when brought from the dark receſs of a gloomy ſtable to the perfect enjoyment of light, air, and exerciſe. The natural ſweetneſs of the external air is ſo happily ſuperior to the ſtagnate impurity of the ſtable, that moſt horſes inſtantly exult in the change, and by a variety of ways convince you of the preference.

Survey a ſpirited horſe with the eye of attention, and obſerve the aſtoniſhing difference *before* and *after* his liberation from the *manger*, to which he is ſometimes (under the influence of ſtrange miſmanagement) haltered for days together without remiſſion. In the ſtable you perceive him *dejected*, *ſpiritleſs*, and almoſt inanimate, without the leaſt ſeeming courage or activity in his compoſition; but when brought into action, he inſtantly aſſumes another appearance, and indicates by bodily exultation and

exertion,

exertion, the abſolute ſalubrity and neceſſity of what the inſtinctive ſtupidity of many can never (from their inexplicable want of comprehenſion) be brought to underſtand. Such inconſiderate obſervers might certainly improve their *very ſhallow judgment* by ſome trifling attention to the indications of nature in horſes of any tolerable deſcription, who all diſplay, in different attitudes and by various means, the gratification they enjoy in their diſtinct appropriations. In fact, the animated aſpect of the whole frame, the lively eye, the creſted neck, the tail erect, with the moſt ſpirited bodily action of neighing, ſnorting, and curvetting, all tend to prove the conſtitutional utility of exerciſe in length and manner adapted to the ſize, ſtrength, make, condition, and purpoſe of the horſe.

Perfectly convinced of its indiſpenſible neceſſity to horſes of all kinds, in proportion to the uſes for which they are deſigned, and the portion of aliment they receive, I am not unfrequently very highly entertained with the management of many within the extenſive circle of my own acquaintance, (and thoſe too with inherent pride

ſufficient

ſufficient to aſſume the character of ſportſmen) who are in conſtant poſſeſſion of good and valuable horſes, perpetually *buying*, *ſelling*, and *exchanging*; but never for years together, have one in their ſtables *three months*, without ſwelled legs, cracked heels, greaſe, bad eyes, broken knees, or ſome of the many ills that conſtitute a ſtable of infirmities; all which they very PHILOSOPHICALLY and erroneouſly attribute to *ill luck*, that I moſt juſtly and impartially place to the account of inadvertent maſters and much more indolent ſervants.

The advantages ariſing from an unremitting perſeverance in the regularity of daily exerciſe, (both in reſpect to time and continuance) cannot be ſo clearly known and perfectly underſtood, but to thoſe who have attended minutely to the good effects of its practice, or the ills that become conſtantly perceptible from its omiſſion. This is undoubtedly the more extraordinary, when it is recollected there is no one part of the animal œconomy more admirably adapted to the plaineſt comprehenſion, than the ſyſtem of repletion and evacuation; which

which may (avoiding technical deſcription and profeſſional minutiæ) be conciſely explained and clearly underſtood, as matter neceſſarily introductory to what we proceed to inculcate, upon the palpable conſiſtency of conſtant and moderate exerciſe for the eſtabliſhment of health and promotion of condition.

I believe it has been before ſaid, in either this or the former volume, that the ALIMENT, after ſufficient maſtication in the act of chewing, is paſſed to the ſtomach, where it undergoes regular fermentation (in general termed digeſtion) producing a certain quantum of *chyle*, in proportion to the *nutritive property* of the aliment ſo retained: This chyle, in its proceſs of nature (whic has been before accurately explained) becomes wonderfully ſubſervient to all the purpoſes of life and ſupport in its general contribution to the ſource of circulation, and the various ſecretions; while the groſſer parts (from which the nutritious property is extracted in their progreſs through the ſtomach and inteſtinal canal) are thrown off from the body by excrementitious evacuations.

This

This is a concise abstract of nature's operation; as necessary to constitute sufficient information to comprehend our present purpose of explicit animadversion upon the great advantage of bodily motion, so far as it shall appear conducive to the preservation of health. Enough is consequently advanced to gratify every competent idea; and afford ample conviction, that should the body be permitted to receive, and continue to accumulate in the frame, more ALIMENT than can be absorbed into the circulation, and carried off by the different emunctories in *a certain portion of time*; over repletion, disquietude, and ultimately DISEASE acute or chronic, must be the inevitable consequence.

The system and effect are too palpably clear to be at all mistaken in even a theoretic survey of the process; for when the blood vessels become over-loaded with an accumulated retention of perspirable matter, and the stomach and intestines preternaturally extended by indurated excrement (all which should be occasionally carried off by exercise) indisposition must arise in a greater

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or leſs degree, ſo ſoon as the repletion produces oppreſſion, that the ſtruggling efforts of nature are unable to ſubdue.

Theſe unembelliſhed facts are too plain and ſtriking to require much time from the WRITER, or patience from the READER, for farther inveſtigation or comprehenſion; concluding, therefore, this part of the *animal mechaniſm* is perfectly underſtood, I ſhall proceed to an explanation of the *active cauſes* of ſuch diſorders as originate in impurities of the blood, occaſioned by want of motion and conſequent evacuation.

It is therefore neceſſary we take a ſurvey of a horſe brought from the ſtable in a ſtate of plenitude after temporary inactivity, when we find the body too full and overloaded to make his firſt efforts with any degree of eaſe or pleaſure; every one not totally abſorbed in a ſtate of ſtupefaction or natural illiteracy, muſt have obſerved the unremitting *attempts* and *ſtrainings* of the animal to throw off the ſuperfluous burthen by repeated evacuations ſo ſoon as brought

 into

into action. If at all hurried before the carcase is in some degree relieved from its accumulated contents, you perceive a wheezing or difficulty of respiration, occasioned by the pressure of the stomach thus loaded, upon the lobes of the lungs, restraining them in their natural elasticity for the purposes of expansion and contraction.

In this state also, if his pace is extended beyond a walk, you find him break into a more violent perspiration, than a horse in proper condition and regular exercise would display in a long journey continued at the same rate without intermission. These are all indications of nature not to be mistaken or denied, by those at all connected or conversant with the subject before us, and sufficiently demonstrate the resulting effects of continuing to over-load the system with a greater quantity of food than there is proportional exercise to carry off.

Perspiration (that is the gradual emission physically termed insensible, as not being profuse to perception) will, in even *gentle exercise*, take from the superflux of the

the BLOOD, what the neceſſary evacuations of *dung* and *urine* take from the accumulated contents of the INTESTINES; which ſuffered to remain in an abundant and preternatural proportion, muſt by its compulſive retention, acquire a degree of putrid or acrimonious morbidity inevitably producing diſeaſe. Theſe morbid attacks act differently upon different ſubjects, according to their ſtate or tendency, at the time of the blood or body's aſſuming a corrupt or infectious influence; diſplaying itſelf in ſuch way as is moſt applicable to the conſtitutional predominance of diſeaſe in the horſe previous to the leaſt trait of diſcovery.

I ſhall, in compliance with my promiſe in the introductory part of this work, forbear to lead the reader farther into a tedious train of remote medical reſearches, but refer him to the different diſquiſitions of the former volume for any gratification he may wiſh to obtain; letting it ſuffice to obſerve, that from ſuch original cauſe may ariſe the various diſtreſſing diſquietudes ſo repeatedly enumerated, as ſwelled legs,

cracked heels, greaſe, aſthmatic cough, fret, ſtrangury, farcy, fever, convulſions, or in fact any of the numerous diſeaſes to which horſes are ſo conſtantly liable.

Theſe cauſes of the various diſeaſes, ſo perfectly clear not only to every ſcientific inveſtigator but every rational obſerver, are what have for time immemorial, in the ſtabularian dialect, paſſed under the *undefined* denomination of HUMOURS, with the numerous tribe of equeſtrian dependents, from the firſt ſtud groom of the firſt ſporting nobleman, to the moſt illiterate ſtable boy in the kingdom; without a ſingle profeſſional exertion of reſpectability, to wipe away the abſtruſe and ignorant ſubterfuge of attributing the generality of diſorders to the effect of *humours*, without any perſpicuous attempt to explain in their different publications, what they have univerſally taken the liberty to condemn.

I am exceedingly ſorry to ſay (and ſay it I do, not from any intentional oppoſition or diſreſpect to the writers) that the more I compare former literary opinions with experimental

perimental practice, the less reason I find to be satisfied with what they ventured to promulgate; particularly upon the subject of *humours*, which in all my enquiries and minute investigations, I could never find systematically explained, at least to encounter the eye of professional inspection.

BRACKEN, who for years was considered a prodigy of VETERINARIAN instruction, after condemning the farriers frequent use and the convenient subterfuge of the word, makes many efforts to go through an elaborate explanation, that, he says, "the ignorance and stupidity of the vulgar are inadequate to;" but very unluckily, after attacking the subject in *nine different ways*, at least in as many different places, he as repeatedly digresses from the point, without ever coming into the *probability* of an explanatory conclusion.

BARTLET, in his usual condescending stile of imitation, (or rather compilation) affords *six pages* of duodecimo, replete with technical abstrusity, collected from the the remote allusions and eccentric remarks

of his learned predeceſſor; beginning with a promiſe of unlimitted explanation, and *almoſt immediately* taking leave with the following apology, that "what ought to be underſtood by the word HUMOURS, would take up more time than the BREVITY we have preſcribed ourſelves will admit on."

Taking no more time from the Reader, than is neceſſary to explain what has been already introduced, and to juſtify what is to follow, upon the *hacknied ſubject of humours*; I advert to ſuch profeſſional remarks as have ariſen from attentive obſervation, with occaſional oblique references to the opinions of thoſe who have gone before us, fraught with temporary popularity; having for ſuch introduction, no motive but an eager and acknowledged deſire to eſtabliſh the TRUTH, by a proper and incontrovertible criterion of practical inveſtigation.

Admitting therefore, the repletion ariſing from a ſuperflux of alimentary nutriment, (not carried off by thoſe gradual excretions promoted by moderate exerciſe in *gentle motion)* to conſtitute what has ſo long paſſed under

under the vague denomination of *humours*, without a fear of being controverted by any reſpectable opponent; I ſhall proceed to the proper mode of rectification in ſuch caſe, and the degree of diſtinction to be aſcertained when ſome of the diſeaſes before-mentioned proceed from a different cauſe.

To effect this, it is firſt neceſſary to obſerve, that when ſuch repletion becomes perceptible, and is *immediately* counteracted by regular and daily encreaſing exerciſe, it may probably (if the horſe is in no confirmed ſtate of foulneſs) be again abſorbed into the circulation, and carried off without the aſſiſtance of extra evacuations promoted by medicine. But it ſhould be always held in remembrance, that ſuch exerciſe muſt be in the firſt inſtances, not only of great gentleneſs but long duration; uſing no violence or ſpeedy exertions, till the body is by gradual perſeverance perfectly unloaded, and the carcaſe and extremities have recovered their original form and pliability; when the exerciſe may be encreaſed to a greater degree of action, that the ſuper-

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fluous and offending matter thus abſorbed, may tranſpire by the moſt natural effort of perſpiration.

To promote which, with the greater ſafety and facility, BLEEDING ſhould precede in proportion to *ſize*, *ſtrength*, and *condition*, that the real ſtate of the blood ſhould be the more clearly aſcertained; as may be found particularly explained in various parts of the former volume, where it is abſolutely neceſſary its predominant appearance ſhould undergo critical examination. But in this conſcientious recommendation, I am unavoidably drawn into additional remarks upon the opinions of others; to demonſtrate the inconſiſtency of *theirs*, as a neceſſary prelude to the juſtice and eſtabliſhment of my *own*. And I muſt confeſs it gives me ſome concern, that I am under the neceſſity of differing *in a ſingle opinion* from authority ſo very reſpectable, and judgment ſo truly profeſſional, as his Majeſty's Farrier for Scotland, whoſe elegant publications entitle him to univerſal applauſe, for the great pains he has taken to elucidate and improve, a ſyſtem that has

has for ages remained in an acknowledged ſtate of barbarity and ignorance.

Mr. Clarke, in his "Obſervations on Blood Letting," ſays, "it is difficult to fix any preciſe ſtandard, how we may judge either of the healthy or morbid ſtate of the blood in horſes when cold." This is an opinion ſo directly oppoſite to what I have frequently advanced upon former occaſions, (with reaſons at large for inſpecting it in ſuch ſtate) that my ſilence upon the paſſage alluded to, would bear ſo much the appearance of puſillanimity or profeſſional ignorance, that I gladly avail myſelf of the preſent opportunity to ſubjoin a few words in ſupport of the opinion formerly maintained; but with the moſt unſullied reſpect for a writer of ſo much perſpicuity and eminence, whoſe abilities I hold in the greateſt eſtimation.

It may, as Mr. Clarke ſeems to think, "be difficult to fix any *preciſe ſtandard* to diſcover the exact ſtate of the blood when *cold*;" but I doubt not his candour, upon due deliberation, will admit the CERTAINTY of

of diſtinguiſhing its property, or predominant tendency, *much better* in that condition, than a ſtate of liquidity as juſt received from the vein. If that *certainty* is admitted, (as I flatter myſelf it will not, upon reflection, be reſpectably denied) it muſt undoubtedly prove much more eligible and ſatisfactory to obtain profeſſional prognoſtics IN PART, than not to acquire any information *at all*. This being a poſition beyond the power of confutation, it is only neceſſary to add a ſingle remark ariſing from daily practice, long experience, and accurate obſervation, upon the certainty of aſcertaining from a minute examination of *the blood when cold*, the proportion of CRASSAMENTUM, SERUM, SIZE, VISCIDITY, probable inflammation or acrimony it contains; from all which, ſurely *diagnoſtics* may be rationally formed to regulate future proceedings; at leaſt, ſo I conſtantly find it in the courſe of my own practice; and until ſuch inſpection, by any deception, ſhould convince me of its uncertainty and inutility, I ſhall not be readily induced to alter an opinion founded upon practical conviction; though I muſt ac-

knowledge

knowledge there is no publication upon theſe ſubjects extant, to whoſe dictates I ſhould more cheerfully become a convert, than the productions of the very author, whoſe opinion, *in one inſtance*, I am compelled to oppoſe.

It is ſo perfectly in point to adopt the vulgariſm of "killing two birds with one ſtone," that I cannot reſiſt the temptation and preſent opportunity to introduce a few words upon an inconſiſtent paſſage in BRACKEN, that equally claſhes with an opinion of mine frequently introduced in my former volume, where the operation of BLEEDING, or the *ſtate of the blood*, neceſſarily became matter of recommendation. In page 111 of his ſecond volume, he ſays, "the blood becomes viſcid, poor, and diſpirited." This paſſage is ſo ſtrangely ſequeſtered from comprehenſion, ſo ridiculouſly replete with paradoxical obſcurity, and ſo directly contrary to my own obſervations, founded in practice, and long ſince communicated under the ſanction of inviolate veracity, that I cannot permit ſuch a profuſion of profeſſional contrarieties to

paſs

paſs current upon the public, without obtruding a few words to elucidate, or rather *expoſe* the myſtery.

To eſtabliſh the credit and juſtify the reputation of "The Stable Directory," as well as to obtain the approbation of thoſe who at no time condemn without inſpection, or applaud without reaſon; I have never advanced *an opinion*, or reported *a fact*, but what has been founded upon principles of incontrovertible information or acknowledged utility. It has been my invariable ſtudy to enlighten, not to perplex; what has been too much the ſyſtem of other writers upon ſimilar ſubjects, may be more properly collected from a reviſion of their productions, than the pen of a competitor. But I will venture to affirm, if any part of my obſervations had contained ſo many abſurd contrarieties, or tedious and inapplicable digreſſions, as the elaborate volumes of BRACKEN; the *tenth edition* of the former volume, or the title page of the *ſecond*, could never have met the light, in the preſent enlightened ſcene of equeſtrian enquiry and literary improvement.

ment. On the contrary, had I proſtituted my judgment or my pen, to ſo unſcientific a declaration as the bloods being "*viſcid, poor*, and *diſpirited*," the united force of menſtrual criticiſm, would have irrevocably doomed ME AND MY OPINIONS to the *loweſt region* of oblivion.

How, at the *ſame time*, blood can be "VISCID and POOR," or the two words of a direct contrary meaning become ſo conveniently ſynonymous, I am at a loſs to learn; but perfectly anxious that the profeſſional conſiſtency, the ſyſtematic uniformity of my aſſertions, may be arraigned and brought to iſſue with opinions ſo directly oppoſite, I find it unavoidably neceſſary, to ſolicit from every impartial inveſtigator, a comparative view of what has been advanced *on either ſide* reſpecting the blood, when he will be enabled to decide, whoſe ſyſtem approaches neareſt to truth, ſupported by reaſon.

To juſtify and corroborate my remarks upon Mr. Clarke's idea of "not diſcovering the true ſtate of the blood when cold," I muſt beg to repeat the very words of my opinion

PREVIOUSLY

PREVIOUSLY given to the public in the former volume, claſs the third, under the head "FARCY," where will be found the following deſcription, neceſſarily *again* ſubmitted to the diſquiſition of every enlightened reader.

"In reſpect to cure, upon the very earlieſt appearance, take away blood in quantity as before deſcribed; and after ſo doing, attend minutely to the QUALITY, which circumſtance will enable you to form a very deciſive judgment, how ſoon and to what proportion the ſubject will bear this evacuation, ſhould it again be neceſſary; for according to the extra proportion of the *Craſſamentum*, or *Coagulum*, and the ſize (or gelatinized ſubſtance upon the ſurface) with the diſproportion of ſerum or watery part, it may be very readily aſcertained how much the blood is certainly *above* or *below* the ſtandard of mediocrity neceſſary for the abſolute PRESERVATION of health."

This is the opinion originally held forth in my firſt publication, and with ſo firm an adherence to truth founded upon experience, that

that I never (particularly after ſo much additional practice and inveſtigation) can condeſcend to change my opinion, and admit its uncertainty, in compliment to the unſupported *ipſe dixit* of any pen whatever; and that I may ſtand totally exculpated from the charge of *publiſhing* an opinion ſo contrary to the reſpectable authority of Mr. Clarke, I muſt beg to obſerve, that my opinion had not only the *priority* of his in publication, but had been in circulation full TWO YEARS before Mr. Clarke's treatiſe came into my poſſeſſion.

We come now to the *judicious* declaration of BRACKEN, reſpecting the blood that he calls "*viſcid, poor,* and *diſpirited,*" to correct which unaccountable profeſſional ſlip, the above quotation will in a certain degree contribute; particularly when I ſubmit it to recollection, that in many parts of my former volume (appropriated entirely to medical reſearches) I have repreſented *viſcid, ſizey* blood, to be the reſulting effect of too much plenitude ariſing from alimentary repletion with a want of proper exerciſe; while, on the contrary, I have deſcribed too great a portion of *ſerum* to conſtitute an *impover-*

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ished blood in being deprived of its due proportion of CRASSAMENTUM, as before recited.

To renew and corroborate which, I must be permitted to recommend to the retrospective attention of those, anxious to distinguish between the specious delusion of *theory* and the establishment of fact, my observations in the same class, under the article of "MANGE," where it will be found I have defined the poverty of the blood in the following explanatory passage.

"For the blood being by this barren contribution robbed of what it was by nature intended to receive, becomes impoverished even to a degree of incredibility (by those unacquainted with the system of repletion and circulation); it loses its tenacity and *balsamic adhesive* quality, degenerating to an acrid serous vapour, that acquires malignity by its preternatural separation from its original *corrector*."

These explanations are so physically correct, so perfectly clear, and so evidently adapted

adapted to every comprehension, that I am satisfied to rest the certainty of its process, and my own professional reputation, upon the arbitrative decision of any impartial investigator. And that this comparative process may be brought to a speedy termination, I shall only beg leave to observe, if Mr. CLARKE's *hypothesis*, "that no discovery can be made from the blood when *cold*," is a fact, or the "*viscid*, *poor*, and *dispirited blood*" of BRACKEN, can be defined one and the same thing, divested of paradoxical complication, and such eccentric opinions are founded *in truth* and can be supported by *incontrovertible facts*; my assertions, however scientific, however established by TIME and confirmed by EXPERIENCE, must inevitably fall unsupported to the ground, unworthy the future attention of those by whose approbation and applause I have been so highly honoured.

Having endeavoured to rescue from public prejudice, any hasty decisions that might be made upon such clashing opinions *undefined*; we return to the operation of bleeding, recommended previous to the constant exercise, and with that bleeding an accurate exa-

mination of the blood WHEN COLD; and this upon the basis of my former opinion again repeated, that should the *crassamentum* (or coagulum) be proportionally greater in quantity to the *serum* (or watery part) than the *serum* to the *coagulum*, I should not hesitate a moment to pronounce such horse to be *above himself* in condition, more particularly if the blood had acquired a *viscid tenacity*, perceptible upon its surface.

When I say above himself in condition, I wish to be understood, he is in the very state we have already described, viz. the whole frame is over-loaded by a super-abundance of nutriment, not carried off by exercise; and the impurities thus collected, to have no reference to latent disease, but merely the effect of such superflux suspended in the constitution, producing a temporary stagnation of what I have already defined HUMOURS to be, for want of gradual motion and consequent evacuations. This being the exact state of a horse labouring under plethora and its concomitants from fulness only, I should immediately adopt the use of a mash each night, composed of *malt* and *bran*, equal parts, merely to soften the indurated contents

tents of the inteſtines and promote their more expeditious diſcharge during the gradual exerciſe in the following days; exciting the veſſels to an encreaſed ſecretion of *urine* by the interpoſition of *two ounces of nitre*, thoroughly diſſolved in the water of each morning, when horſes will in general drink it with a greater degree of avidity. This plan regularly perſevered in for ſix or eight days, with daily increaſing exerciſe and good ſubſtantial dreſſings in the ſtable, (more particularly patient rubbing of the legs downwards) may be reaſonably expected to carry off the repletion, *in part*, or *all*, according to the ſtate and condition of the horſe, or the time of its accumulation.

On the contrary, ſhould the blood in five or ſix hours after it is taken away, be found to contain but a ſmall portion of CRASSAMENTUM, in proportion to the much greater of SERUM; and ſuch coagulum to be of a florid healthy appearance, I could not doubt even for a moment but ſuch ſwellings of the legs, cracks, greaſe, defluxions of the eyes, (or any other complaints uſually ariſing from ſuch cauſe) may be the effect of an

acrimonious, impoverished, and diseased state of the blood; for the due correcting of which, proper remedies may be selected from the former volume of this work, under the different classes and heads to which they are the most applicable.

Defluxions of the eyes arising from whatever cause, whether the *repletion* already defined, that by its accumulation distends the finer vessels in proportion as the larger are over-loaded, and in such retention acquires tendency to disease; from such external injuries as *bites* and *blows*; or a relaxed, defective, or paralytic affection of the internal organs, they are all in general denominated HUMOURS *without distinction*, and physically treated accordingly. Hence arises a very predominant and almost universal error, for want of judicious discrimination in paying proper attention to the state of the blood; the difference and property of which have been so accurately and repeatedly described, that there is no opening left to admit the plea of ignorance in any one case where it is entitled to inspection.

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If a threatened diſorder in the eyes is ſuppoſed to be the effect of repletion and reſulting *viſcidity*, ſome judgment may be formed from a minute examination of the blood, which will bear reſemblance to the ſtate accurately explained when the horſe is too much *above himſelf in condition*, and the veſſels more or leſs overcharged with impurities. Excluſive of a ſole dependence upon which prognoſtic, much information may be collected from external appearance; the eyes are full, heavy, and dull, with an apparent tendency to inflammation in the lids above and below, and exceedingly turbid in the centre; diſplaying in ſuch ſtate a perpetual drowſineſs, his eyes being frequently cloſed when ſtanding in the ſtable undiſturbed and ſeemingly unperceived, but without *the leaſt diſcharge* tending to diſcover the original cauſe of complaint.

On the contrary, when ariſing from an impoveriſhed and acrimonious ſtate of the blood, the eyes become upon the firſt attack full and inflamed; almoſt immediately diſcharging a ſharp ſcalding ſerum, that is inceſſantly rolling down the cheeks, and in its

paſſage (by its conſtant heat and irritation) frequently occaſions excoriation; the eye gradually contracting and ſinking in its orbit, in proportion to the length and inveteracy of diſeaſe. This defluxion is ſo very oppoſite in cauſe and effect, and requires a ſyſtem of treatment ſo very different to the caſe juſt deſcribed, as ariſing from *a viſcidity in the blood*, (conſtituting HUMOUR of a diſtinct kind) that a nicer judgment is neceſſary than generally exerted in ſuch diſcrimination.

In caſes where one eye only is affected in either of the ways before deſcribed, it may with a great degree of reaſon be attributed to *external* injury, and the reſulting pain, inflammation, or diſcharge, ſo far dependent upon the original cauſe as to be merely ſymptomatic; unleſs from the great irritability and exquiſite ſenſation of the part, ſome of the humours of the eye ſhould be ſo ſeverely injured as to occaſion its loſs; a circumſtance that is too frequently known to happen by an accidental blow, but undoubtedly many more by thoſe wilfully aimed and fatally executed.

As I have before obſerved, one grand error has formerly ariſen, and is ſtill continued by all the advocates for, and invincible followers of *ancient Farriery*, to treat "the HUMOURS that have fallen into the eyes" (making uſe of their own language) exactly in the ſame way; whether they proceed from any of the cauſes juſt recited, or the long liſt of poſſibilities that might be added to the catalogue. It is really in reflection a dreadful conſideration, that experience enables me to proclaim ſo ſerious a fact, and with variety of proofs to eſtabliſh the certainty, that more horſes are deprived of their eyes and rendered totally blind, by the unbounded ignorance, quackery, and ſelf-ſufficiency of *ſome*, with the confidence and affected medical knowledge of *others*, than any bodily diſeaſe or local defect to which the frame is ſubject in the courſe of nature.

It is matter of no ſmall concern to thoſe who wiſh to ſee a rapid improvement in the medical management of this uſeful animal, to find *in caſes of conſequence*, upon every enquiry to diſcover the cauſe and what methods

have been taken to relieve, all the information must be derived from interrogatories to the *servant*; who is in general possessed of *all the mystery*, and the MASTER (however valuable the horse) is frequently found to know little or nothing at all of the matter. The groom's judgment is in general so perfectly *infallible*, that it would be absolute presumption in his employer, to enquire into the cause of complaint or method of cure; yet upon accurate investigation of these *extensive abilities*, we find very slender cause for the unlimited confidence and implicit opinion of the master. If enquiry is made whether the horse has been bled, and we are answered he has, we are already arrived at the ultimatum of information; for what *quantity* was taken away, or what *quality* it was WHEN COLD, must remain in its former obscurity; one general answer suffices for every question; and with a blush of *conscious stupidity*, we are told, the horse was "*bled on the dunghill*." By this specimen of enlightened information, every additional suggestion may be fairly supposed equally *conclusive* and *satisfactory*.

However,

However, to avoid farther digreſſion in the preſent inſtance, and come to a palpable demonſtration of an aſſertion juſt made, I ſhall very conciſely introduce from the multiplicity that have occurred, two recent caſes only, as directly applicable to our preſent purpoſe of corroboration; and it is rather remarkable they ſhould both happen on the ſame day, and within a very ſhort time of this repreſentations going to preſs, the horſes being the property of perſons of the firſt faſhion, and each of them ſent upwards of *twenty miles* for my opinion.

The firſt was a HUNTER of high qualifications and conſiderable eſtimation; upon accurate examination I found him in the exact ſtate I have deſcribed when labouring under a defluxion of the eyes, (ariſing from a diſeaſed and acrimonious ſtate of the blood) the diſcharge from which, in its long continuance and ſeverity, had "fretted channels in his cheeks;" the eyes were ſo very much periſhed that they were abſolutely contracted in their orbs, the frame weak and emaciated, diſplaying a ſpectacle with very ſlender and diſcouraging hopes of rectification.

Anxious

Anxious to obtain every poſſible information upon ſo extraordinary and unpromiſing a caſe, I commenced my enquiry with caution, and continued it with preciſion, to the attainment of every particular ſtep that had been taken for his relief; and doubt not but every reader will be as much ſurpriſed in the peruſal, as I muſt have been in the recital, when he is informed, that the horſe had been in this gradually encreaſing ſtate for two months; with the additional mortification to the parties, that every method adopted for his improvement had evidently contributed to his diſadvantage.

Every degree of admiration, however naturally excited by the force of this reflection, will as naturally ſubſide when the communication of the meſſenger and the ſtate of the horſe have undergone a little deliberative retroſpection. In the firſt inſtance, his keep was ſo reduced as barely to ſubſiſt nature; he had undergone *five bleedings*, (without the leaſt reference to either *quantity* or *quality*) three doſes of ſtrong mercurial phyſic, two ounces of nitre a day from the origin of complaint, and *laſtly*, to render complete a

ſyſtem

ſyſtem of inconſiſtencies, A ROWEL had been inſerted, as if the whole proceſs had been intentionally calculated to encreaſe the cauſe and inveteracy of diſeaſe. From the ill effects of this caſe (which is critically accurate and authentic) may be derived a leſſon of the greateſt utility to thoſe who, perfectly happy in the vortex of perſonal confidence and ſelf-ſufficiency, ſo frequently become the dupes of their own imaginary ſuperiority and indiſcretion.

If the cauſe had been inflammatory, ariſing from the viſible effect of *plenitude*, *viſcidity*, or *groſs impurities* in the habit, the various evacuations might have been rotationally adopted, and juſtified upon the principles of *rational* practice and medical conſiſtency; but unfortunately, in the preſent inſtance, whatever tended to reduce the ſyſtem and diſſolve the craſſamentum of the blood, inevitably encreaſed the very evil they were endeavouring to mitigate. It was equally remarkable and extraordinary, that no one article was brought into uſe but what became additionally injurious to the cauſe it was intended to ſerve; all which might have been

been prevented by the precaution of minutely inſpecting, and properly comprehending, the *craſis of the blood*; the indiſpenſible neceſſity of which, I am anxiouſly induced to hope, will acquire ſuch weight with thoſe who are adequate to the taſk of deciſion, that it will in future become a buſineſs of more general inveſtigation.

The repeated *bleedings*, the reduction of *aliment*, the perpetual adminiſtration of *nitre*, (attenuating the blood that was before too ſerous and watery) the injudicious interpoſion of *purges*, and laſtly, the inſertion of the *rowel* to aſſiſt in the general devaſtation, certainly exceeds every idea that could have been formed of random quackery and bodily depredation; this is, however, no more than *one* repreſentation of what is eternally carrying on in different places under the inſpection of thoſe, who are too illiterate to poſſeſs a conſiſtent opinion of *their own*, and too impertinently conceited to ſolicit aſſiſtance from *others*.

Deſpairing of ſucceſs by any relief that could be obtained from medicine, I ordered

dered the ſyſtem to be immediately invigorated with increaſed ſupplies of food, that by forming the means of nutrition, the craſſamentum of the blood might be augmented; aſſiſting this with a pectoral cordial ball every morning, not more to enliven the circulation, than by warm and gentle ſtimulation to reſtore the tone of the ſtomach and inteſtines, totally debilitated by the injudicious adminiſtration of *mercurial cathartics*, and the long and improper uſe of the *nitre*. Theſe deſirable points being obtained, I recommended, at the end of ſix or ſeven days, the fair trial of a courſe of the advertiſed ALTERATIVE POWDERS, to gradually obtund the acrimonious particles of the blood, with the external application of the *Vegeto Mineral*, properly proportioned to allay the irritation; but I muſt confeſs, without any great hope of ſucceeding in parts of the frame ſo very remote from the active power of medicine.

The other was the caſe of a COACH HORSE, little leſs ſingular in its mode of treatment; as no one ſtep taken ſeemed to be at all regulated by any well-founded intention

intention of utility. The eyes (one more particularly) had been ſome months in a ſtate of failure and fluctuation, alternately producing hope and deſpair; when, after undergoing every experiment at home without even a probability of ſucceſs, he was conſigned to my inſpection, with a deſire that I would be very minute in my inſtructions, which ſhould be implicitly obeyed. Upon examination, I diſcovered the defect to have taken its ſeat in the humours of the eye, with no external inflammation attending, nor any other predominant trait than a dull cloudy aſpect of the entire orb; diſplaying a pearly tint upon the outer edge of the cornea, ſurrounded by the tunica ſclerotis, indicating the great probability of *film* and *opacity*, conſtituting in its gradual termination *total blindneſs*.

This horſe I found, upon enquiry, had been treated in a way nearly ſimilar to what we have juſt deſcribed; for having been repeatedly *bled and purged*, he had been ſubſiſted upon *hot maſhes*, and furniſhed with *four ounces of nitre* a day in his water for weeks together; had received the

the farrier's operative contribution of a *rowel*; and, to ſum up the total of empirical ſpeculation, and to verify the vulgar adage of "*the more cooks, &c.*" the meſſenger (who was the commanding officer in the ſtabularian department) CONFIDENTIALLY entruſted me with a *ſecret* remedy of his own he had *privately* adopted; "the propriety and ſafety of which application, he did not at all doubt but I ſhould applaud, as it was, in general, *a perfect cure for bad eyes of every kind*; and was no more than TWO OUNCES OF BLUE VITRIOL diſſolved in a quart of *ſpring water*, with which the eyes were to be well waſhed every night and morning." Whatever may be my inclination, however highly I may be again diſpoſed to animadvert upon theſe acts of *deſperation* or *madneſs*, (for ſo I muſt be permitted to term them) I ſhall here drop the curtain upon the invincible ignorance and cruelty of this practice; referring the reader to various parts of the former volume, where he will be amply furniſhed with obſervations at large, perfectly applicable to the mode of treatment

ment ſo ridiculouſly adapted to the caſes in queſtion.

Not entertaining the leaſt doubt but upon theſe repreſentations, by much the greater part of the judicious and enlightened world will perfectly coincide with me in an opinion not to be eradicated; that numbers of horſes annually loſe not only their *eyes* but their *lives*, by the dreadful effects of unbounded ignorance and confidence; that it is to be lamented, too frequently act in conjunction, to the palpable prejudice of undiſcerning credulity. Conſidering this a fact too ſubſtantial to be ſhaken by ſpeculative or inexperienced opinions, it becomes for the completion of our purpoſe, abſolutely neceſſary we advert to the miſchiefs ſo frequently occaſioned by the faſhionable and indiſcriminate uſe of *nitre*, in conſequence of the general encomiums of former writers, before its properties were ſo critically aſcertained; which added to the pecuniary eaſe of acquiſition, has brought the article into too great a degree of conſtant uſe, in almoſt every caſe, without a relative conſideration to its medical property, the cauſe

or

or ſymptoms of diſeaſe, its injurious tendency in ſome caſes, or evident deſtruction in others, as in the former of the two juſt deſcribed.

That the frequent *uſe* and *abuſe* of NITRE may not only be better underſtood but more perfectly retained in memory; as well as to eſtabliſh the propriety of its uſe in *ſome caſes*, and to confirm the juſtice of my aſſertion reſpecting its prejudicial effects *in others*; I muſt be under the neceſſity of introducing the repetition of a few lines deſcriptive of its properties, ſo particularly enlarged upon in my former volume, where it may be found by reference to the index. In animadverſion upon the *unlimited* eulogiums of BARTLET, who has, without proper diſcrimination, recommended its frequent uſe to "*three or four ounces three times a day*," I have ſaid,

"He urges the adminiſtration of it to attenuate and thin the denſe ſizy blood during the effect of inflammatory fever; this property of attenuation being allowed, what muſt be the natural concluſion and conſequence of

of giving it in ſuch large proportions? Why every *profeſſional man*, knowing the mode by which it muſt inevitably affect the circulation, would naturally expect it to diſſolve the very craſſamentum of the blood, and reduce it to an abſolute *ſerum* or aqueous vapour."

Admitting this repreſentation of its analized properties to ſtand incontroverted, what muſt prove its evident effects upon the *craſis of the blood*, already too much impoveriſhed for "the ſtandard of mediocrity neceſſary to the preſervation of health?" and how diſtreſſingly erroneous muſt have been its introduction and continuance, in the former caſe of the two we have recited! to elucidate its deſtructive tendency in which, the preſent repetition of its deſcription is particularly applied.

It is abſolutely aſtoniſhing how very much *time*, aſſiſted by the torrent of popular impreſſion, may pervert the beſt intentions to the worſt of purpoſes; this has been ſo truly the caſe in the frequent proſtitution of this medicine, that little need be introduced to inſure

insure its credibility. NITRE is the general arcanum for every ill, while one-half of those who prescribe, and the other half who give it, may be equally strangers to its effects or mode of operation. If a horse is attacked with cold from an obstruction of the pores, that has thrown the perspirable matter upon the eyes, lungs, or glandular parts, what is the established remedy? *Nitre!* Inflammatory fever ensues, what follows? *Nitre!* Swelled legs, cracked heels, or grease? *Nitre!* Bad eyes (from whatever cause)? *Nitre!* In fact, such is the predominant rage of fashionable phrenzy, that should any case arise, bearing in experience no pathognomonic symptoms to ascertain the certainty or probable affinity of disease, its origin or termination, NITRE, with *sagacious grooms* and *condescending farriers*, must become the grand specific; to which infatuation, I am much inclined to believe, BARTLET's unbounded partiality, and its *echo* from one *conjuror to another*, has very much contributed.

A chain of attentive observations, collected in the course of long experience, has fully

juſtified me in a former opinion, that numerous injuries are ſuſtained, and ills inflicted, upon horſes of gentlemen by the hazardous experiments of grooms and ſervants; who picqueing themſelves upon heterogeneous and ſelf-planned compoſitions or obſolete preſcriptions, encreaſe danger or promote deſtruction without detection. And what renders the buſineſs a matter of more ſerious conſideration, is the unaccountable obſtinacy, pride, and *ſtabularian conſequence* (of all other the moſt diſguſting) annexed to their *affected knowledge* and *phyſical penetration*. Too ignorant to be convinced, and too rude to become ſubſervient, expoſtulation or explanation can hold no weight in the ſcale of converſation; conſequently no reformation can be expected in ſuch infernal ſyſtem of domeſtic deception and deſtructive quackery, unleſs gentlemen, for the promotion of their own intereſt and the ſafety of their ſtuds, will condeſcend to exert their authority, and aboliſh a cuſtom in the encouragement or permiſſion of which they are ſo materially injured. To the eſtabliſhment of this fact, a numerous catalogue of moſt ſubſtantial proofs are within my own know-

knowledge, was their communication of the least utility, in confirming an assertion that will, I believe, be readily admitted by all the world without exception.

From such medical remarks as unavoidably branch directly from the subject, we return to exercise; the great importance of which cannot be too perfectly understood, or regularly persevered in for the preservation of health. Having I believe properly defined the physical effects of gradual motion, so far as it appertains to the animal œconomy in secretion and excretion, (with its consequent advantages in air and exercise) it becomes necessary to introduce such general rules as establish the basis of regular exercise, although the *time* and *manner* must ever be regulated by the temper and caprice of the parties, season of the year, situation, weather, and other contingencies not to be governed by the privilege of the pen, or the power of the press.

The apology for, or rather burlesque upon, the exercise of horses (or more properly invalids) in the livery stables of London,

is evidently calculated to complete the measure of misery so fully explained in our last chapter, particularly in the winter season; that it is necessarily a matter of previous consideration to such instructions as we may hereafter introduce under this head. The poor animals I now allude to, seem to exist as an almost different species to those enjoying the inexpressible advantages of *country air, strong exercise, and rural* management. Here you perceive all spirit, animation, and vigour, with both the horses and their attendants: In the metropolis, bodily infirmities and debilitation with one; *idleness, deception, sloth,* and *dejection* with the other. In fact, the causes and effects have been so perfectly clear in the gantlet of personal inspection and pecuniary experience, when the prevalence of fashion (or rather folly) influenced me to keep *two in such situation,* that no inducement whatever should prevail on me to leave a horse of the least value open to the inconveniencies of such state for twenty-four hours; perfectly convinced he would have every probable chance of sustaining greater injuries, than might be obliterated in twice

twenty-

twenty-four days. The more we investigate this business, the less satisfaction it will afford to the parties more immediately interested in the explanation; particularly to those whose situations in life, or professional avocations, leave them without an alternative.

After taking a retrospective view of the "STABLING" already described, let it be remembered that what they call *exercise* depends entirely upon the inclination and convenience of the *motley crew* to whom the management of the yard, and superintendance of the horses are entrusted; these are a sort in general selected as the greatest adepts in falshood and imposition, best adapted to the convenient purposes of the master, and the purified principles of a stable-yard proficiency. When such exercise is however corresponding with the *inclination* and *convenience* of the parties we describe; observe in *its manner* how little it is calculated to promote the very purposes for which it is intended.

The horse is brought in general from the

evaporating ſteams of the moſt volatile ſalts, with the perſpirative pores all open, parching with thirſt, to a large open trough of cold water, (with little reſpect to ſeaſon) where he is permitted to ſatiate the appetite, unreſtrained by judgment or fear of conſequence; till chilled by the frigidity of the element, the porous ſyſtem becomes inſtantly collapſed, and you perceive by attention, the tail almoſt immediately clung to the hind quarters; a violent trembling and bodily agitation ſucceeds, and the perſpirative matter thus obſtructed in its *very act of fluctuation*, (through every part of the frame,) lays the foundation of various ills, that however they might have been avoided in the firſt inſtance, cannot be prevented in the laſt.

This ceremony is ſucceeded by one of two others equally prejudicial to the frame in general, however its ill effects may not prove immediately diſcernible; but remain dormant ſome ſhort ſpace of time in the habit before it is diſplayed in one of the many diſeaſes ſo repeatedly deſcribed in different parts of the laſt and preſent chap-

ters.

ters. For ſo ſoon as the horſe has been thus permitted to glut himſelf with an immoderate quantity of the cold water before-mentioned, he is directly conſigned *to his ſtall*, where its injurious effects are preſently viſible in a ſevere rigor, or violent fit of ſhaking, not unlike the painful paroxyſm of an intermittent; producing an almoſt inſtantaneous contraction of the cutaneous paſſages, and "ſtaring of the coat," (as it is called) when we obſerve,

"Each particular Hair to ſtand on End
"Like Quills upon the fretful Porcupine."

The alternative to this practice is ſo thoroughly contemptible, that it is abſolutely difficult to decide which is the moſt deſtructive or dangerous of the two; for if the plan above-deſcribed is not adopted, but at times admits of variation, it is directly in the following way: The horſe thus watered, is immediately mounted by one of the *juvenile ragamuffins*, who conſtantly give daily attendance at thoſe receptacles, to obtain a proficiency in the arts of *riding*, *cruelty* and *perſecution*. Two or three of the horſes at a time, and in this

this ſtate, are put into a courſe of exerciſe, and *woeful exerciſe* it certainly is with a witneſs; for without the leaſt previous gentle walking, to expedite the gradual evacuation of excrements ſo long retained for want of motion; they are inſtantly trotted, galloped, and perpetually turned at each end of a ſhort ride, in ſuch ſcene of inceſſant confuſion for a length of time without remiſſion. The ſtomach and inteſtines being over-loaded with their contents, the horſe is totally inadequate to rapidity of motion without great bodily diſtreſs; a few minutes therefore puts him into a wonderful degree of perſpiration; when evidently labouring under a difficulty of reſpiration and diſquietude, he is returned tottering to the ſtable, and there left to grow "cool at leiſure;" laying, *in another way*, the foundation of thoſe diſeaſes reſulting from a collapſion of the porous ſyſtem, and ſtagnation of perſpirable matter, too ſubſtantial to be reſorbed into the circulation.

Taking leave for the preſent of ſtable diſcipline, ſo truly deſpicable that farther deſcription

deſcription might be conſidered a proſtitution of both time and paper, we neceſſarily return to the gradations of exerciſe beſt adapted to the different degrees of horſes, according to their various ſtates of condition. Many calculations have been made upon the poſſible labour and continued exertions of this ſpecies, and we are by no means ignorant of their great and almoſt incredible execution, when brought (for the deciſion of bets) into trials of ſeverity, upon the *turf* or *road*, both in ſpeed and duration.

The diſtinction to be made in the preſent inſtance, is only the line between what is to be conſidered as *work*, and what as the ſalutary intervention of *exerciſe*; opinions, (ſo near as ſpeculative attention can form a degree of conſiſtency) admit, that horſes of moderate qualifications and moderately ſupported, will conſtantly travel, or journey in their accuſtomed employment, from ſixteen to twenty miles *every day*, through the year, without the leaſt inconvenience or bodily debilitation, more than what naturally ariſes from the increaſing age of

of the ſubject. This, however, being fixed as a kind of conditional ſtandard, or general criterion, cannot be ſuppoſed to be held *critically correct* with all horſes, without diſtinction; as there are many that will conſequently bear much more labour and fatigue, from greater bodily ſtrength, inherent ſpirit, or conſtitutional ſtamina, than others that fall very far ſhort in conſtant work and execution, from a want of thoſe perfections ſo truly valuable in horſes of the former deſcription.

As I have before ſaid, exerciſe, in all its particulars of *manner*, *diſtance*, and *duration*, muſt be entirely regulated by contingent reflections upon the *health*, *ſtate*, and *condition* of the ſubject; ſo it muſt be perfectly clear, that the recommendation of certain exerciſe to horſes in a high ſtate of health and condition, cannot be ſuppoſed to extend to thoſe under phyſic, or in different ſtates of, or recovery from, diſeaſe: Such muſt unavoidably receive judicious regulations from the parties concerned; as the kind of daily exerciſe we now have in contemplation, only appertains to horſes in health, the preſervation of which is the preſent object of conſideration.

ſideration. All the obſervations under this head, having been introduced to demonſtrate the UTILITY OF EXERCISE IN GENERAL, and the *ills* that certainly ariſe from *the want of it*, more than to lay down ſpecific rules for the daily exerciſe of particular horſes; ſuch inſtructions will be found included under the management of HUNTERS and ROAD HORSES, when we come to enlarge upon thoſe different heads.

ROWELLING

'HAS been to the credulous and illiterate of *paſt times*, exactly what the faſcinating infatuation of ANIMAL MAGNETISM proves to the dupes of the *preſent*; like HUMOURS, it has been played upon by moſt writers in rotation, without an explanatory line in its favour, to produce ſatisfactory *proof* of its mechanical proceſs, or eſtabliſhed utility. BRACKEN, who hardly ever gave cauſe of complaint for abridging his ſubject, but generally moſt condeſcendingly ſpun it (by a variety of branches) to *an almoſt indiviſible thread*, deviated in this inſtance from his uſual cuſtom; and after introducing

troducing the subject with a certain degree of dignity annexed to its importance, by telling us, "he once thought not to have made a particular chapter upon rowelling," he *begins* and *concludes* that very chapter, of so much consequence, in the *single duodecimo page* 321, of his first volume. In this page, and upon this business, I had very much wished to have enlarged my own ideas, and improved my judgment; more particularly, upon the abstruse effects of a subject, whose personal or literary advocates have been *hitherto* enabled to advance but little in professional support of their favourite operation.

To obtain satisfactory information and systematic knowledge upon the efficacy of ROWELS, when judiciously inserted, I have been for years studiously industrious to better my opinion by the most inquisitive attention to every *attempt at definition*, from those who were remarkable for their extensive practice to those who were no less singular for their illiteracy; in anxious hope that *time*, or *circumstance*, might contribute more to a gratification of my wish than my expectation. To avoid troubling the Reader

Reader with tedious or unneceſſary quotations, I ſhall let it ſuffice to introduce ſuch abbreviations only as become perfectly applicable to our future remarks upon the ſubject before us.

BRACKEN juſtly obſerves, "Rowelling is the common reſource of Farriers in general; amongſt whom, he could never find one that could give a ſatisfactory account of the *uſe* or *abuſe*; but they all tell you, a rowel is to draw off the bad or corrupt humours from the blood; and this is to cure almoſt every diſorder, according to their way of reaſoning." This aſſertion is ſo ſtrictly true, that I will cheerfully conſent to its confirmation, upon the experimental enquiries of the laſt twenty years; and declare, I never could acquire from the *Vulcanian profeſſors*, a more technical or enlightened deſcription of the OPERATIVE EFFECTS, than the "*poor epitome*" he acknowledges to have received.

In this communication there is nothing very extraordinary; but it is not ſo in what is to follow, and is worthy obſervation: In the ſame page, and almoſt the next line, he tells us, "it is good in a great many diſeaſes;" and

and inſtantly ſays: " The horſe might as well, nay better, loſe as much *blood* every day as he does *matter* by the *rowel*; for it is as certainly blood as that in the veins, barring the colour, which makes no eſſential difference; and he is very much of opinion that ſeveral cures are wholly attributed to *rowelling*, when reſt and patience are the principal inſtruments or agents that perform it."

Is there any one reader who will not be greatly ſurpriſed and as highly entertained, when he is informed that the writer, who has recommended the uſe of rowels for the cure of various diſeaſes, in compliance with the force of that very cuſtom he condemns, ſhould in the ſame page, and comparatively with the ſame breath, inſtantly reprobate the practice, as abſolutely drawing ſo much *blood* from the *veins*; poſſeſſing at the ſame time ſo great a verſatility of literary genius, ſo perfect a pantomimic tranſpoſition of words and opinions, that we find him (p. 85.) preſcribing " bleeding, purging, and rowelling *in ſeveral places at once*, for one rowel is of little avail for many reaſons; and theſe ſhould

continue

continue running a considerable time, at least a fortnight or three weeks." In page 99, he believes they may be useful in many disorders, "provided there be made *a sufficient number of them*;" but as to the parts of the body, whether behind the ears, in the breast, or under the horse's belly, he thinks it is much the same thing; "for in reality, they are no more than adding a number of *anus's* or *fundaments*, so that NATURE may meet with them in several parts of the body, and not be put to the trouble of going the more tedious and common round of circulation in order for a discharge by *excrement* or *dung*."

Can it be possibly necessary for me to offer a single line in apology for the introduction of assertions so exceedingly opposite from the same pen; or a *refinement of thought* and *sublimity of language* in the latter, not to be exceeded by any hypothetical reasoning or fertility of invention ever issued from the press? The idea of *artificial fundaments*, to save NATURE the trouble of going the more tedious and common road by the *anus*, is not only so truly great and inimitable; so very contrary to and so far surpassing the assertion of OSMER, that

that "the works of the Divine Artist" had left no room for rectification; (see p. 153) that nothing on my part can be required to excite the risible emotions; though, I must confess, it is with the greatest reluctance so fair a temptation is relinquished, to play a little upon the retentive imperfections of one predecessor, and the methodistical enthusiasm of the other.

But notwithstanding the direct and repeated contradictions we find dispersed through the volumes of BRACKEN, (probably occasioned by his long and inconsistent digressions) it must be acknowledged, with the strictest adherence to justice and merit, that no one succeeding writer has since started a thought or broached an opinion upon the operation of rowelling, or its effects, but what has been an exact literal description, or *oblique echo*, of what originated with him upon the subject. For upon a minute examination of the various publications of different writers, we find that a very superficial investigation, and no additional explanation, has been condescendingly bestowed upon a process that is even now held in the highest estimation, by those

those advocates for ancient practice, who can communicate no scientific or professional description of its operative effect upon the constitution; or by what physical means the improvement is to be obtained, that they so confidently and *conscientiously* recommend upon every possible occasion.

The very few lines introduced under this head, by even the most prolific authors, possess not the least ray of novelty or instruction, but are direct imitations of what proceeded from BRACKEN; beginning with the customary remark, "that rowels are in general use, but little understood;" "that they are artificial vents between the skin and the flesh;" "that they act by revulsion and derivation;" carrying off the redundant HUMOURS from the vessels by *depletion*.

These few passages contain in purport the whole that has been at all communicated through the medium of the press, upon an operation so indiscriminately recommended in almost every disease without exception; notwithstanding it is of so much

consequence in medical management, that it becomes matter of admiration, how the enlightened part of the world can be so frequently made the dupes of a most consummate ignorance; without summoning to their assistance an opinion of their own, to justify the consistency or prevent the error of such proceeding. For my own part, after endeavouring most industriously for many years, to fathom the depth of a *Farrier's* intellectual and professional abilities, without being enabled to place any part to their *credit accompt*; and constantly drawing a mental comparison between the *good* they might *possibly do*, and the mischief they would *certainly occasion*, I have long since found it necessary to decline every dependence upon either: Feeling myself perfectly justified in recommending it most heartily to every reader possessing the least attachment to the species; never to suffer a medicine to be given, or an operation to be performed, before the expected process of the former, and the intentional effect of the latter, are previously explained to his entire satisfaction.

This

This I am the more readily induced to do, by the inceſſant inſertion of rowels and adminiſtration of drinks, by parties ſo confeſſedly ignorant, they can never aſſign the leaſt reaſon for the operative ſucceſs of one, or the expected medical relief from the other. It is not long ſince I became an accidental ſpectator to a caſe of great danger and almoſt immediate diſſolution, when the horſe was in the ſlings nearly exhauſted, with only a few hours to live; and was conſequently very much ſurpriſed to hear a Farrier of faſhionable local eminence, earneſtly recommend and attempt to proceed to the inſertion of a multiplicity of rowels, (that were however not permitted by the owner); when the horſe was inevitably doomed to death long before the rowels could have taken any other effect, than in their conſequent inflammation (previous to maturation) to have encreaſed his miſery and rendered his laſt moments the more excruciating. However, if the owner had conſented, the operations would have been performed, and the reward expected, conſequently *ſome purpoſe* anſwered.

I considered myself exceedingly lucky, in so favourable an opportunity, to acquire something personally satisfactory upon the operative process and probable effect of rowels upon the frame and habit, from one who had so confidently recommended their immediate use in a case of so much emergency; and really expected, from the extensive practice of the party and the general acknowledgement of his practical abilities, that I should have been in a proportional degree gratified; but sorry I am to confess, after every direct attack, oblique insinuation, and cross examination, he was so well *fortified in his entrenchments*, that I could derive no greater degree of information than "they were the *likeliest things* to do him good."

This, among many other recommendations of rowelling upon foundations equally ridiculous, brings to my mind another instance of the indiscriminate use of rowels, with no other reason on earth than a self-interested reference to the pecuniary compensation annexed to the ceremony of operation. A few weeks since, an intimate friend calling upon me one morning, informed me,

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he had met with an unlucky circumſtance; for having unexpectedly ſold his horſe on the Saturday at READING, without any previous intention of ſo doing, he was by agreement to be delivered on the Monday morning; at which time the purchaſer diſcovering a violent inflammation and diſcharge from one of the eyes, (which was not in that condition at the time of purchaſe) he objected to receiving him; but its being concluded the temporary effect of a *bite*, *blow*, or *cold*, he at length agreed to take him away, with the privilege of returning him at any time *within a week*, if ſuch appearance was not entirely removed. This not happening, the horſe was returned; and my friend had then left him in the hands of the *ſmith*, (or FARRIER) who had that moment taken away two quarts of blood, and was, when he came away, juſt going to put in *a rowel* below the breaſt, to draw off the HUMOUR that was ſettled in the eye; that he had alſo recommended the uſe of *nitre* and *ſulphur*; and as he had *plenty at home*, he ſhould give him an ounce of each night and morning.

The rapid accumulation and combination of remedies naturally excited ſome expoſtulation, and influenced me to aſk, whether there were any predominant reaſons (excluſive of the intereſted recommendation of the operator) that induced him ſo ſoon to permit the inſertion of the rowel, before he had waited even *twenty-four hours*, to obſerve whether any advantage had been derived from the bleeding, which was certainly the firſt and beſt ſtep that could have been taken? Finding alſo, upon minute enquiry, that there was a great probability of its having been occaſioned by a bite or blow among other horſes, when replaced in the ſtable, between the time of his having been agreed for and brought away; I prevailed on him to poſtpone the rowel, (which he had but juſt time to do, as the inciſion was made before his return) relinquiſh his *nitrous, ſulphureous* intention for the preſent, and leave his horſe in my ſtable; which having cheerfully complied with, the eye was perfectly ſound and clear in a few days, with no other aſſiſtance than a ſlight waſhing twice a day with a ſponge, plentifully impregnated with cold ſpring water.

This

This circumſtance, of very little conſequence in itſelf, is introduced to corroborate the aſſertion, that rowels are frequently and injudiciouſly brought into practice, without reaſon in the operator, or reflection in the owner; who generally alarmed upon every ſlight occaſion, ſeizes the firſt twig of conſolation, without giving the matter ſuch conſideration as would enable him to recollect every *probable remedy* ſhould have REASON for its foundation; upon the *proſpect* of which he would certainly be, in moſt caſes, as capable of deciding as his SCIENTIFIC INSTRUCTOR. But what renders the recital of ſo trivial a buſineſs applicable to our preſent purpoſe is, the expeditious cure that muſt inevitably have been attributed to the ROWEL, with no ſmall portion of collateral merit to thoſe uſeful auxiliaries, the *ſulphur* and *nitre*, had they been (luckily for the adviſer) concerned in a work, that NATURE would ſo frequently perform by her own efforts, if not inceſſantly counteracted by thoſe who neither comprehend her œconomy, or condeſcend to conſult her indications.

Having

Having introduced what became abſolutely unavoidable, to demonſtrate the frequent abſurdity (from long ſtanding and invincible cuſtom) of applying rowels in many caſes, without the leaſt well founded reaſon for their uſe; it becomes neceſſary to diſcover, by ſcientific enquiry, what can be advanced in proof of the ſuppoſed utility, that has for ages rendered them the profeſſional *(or political)* rage of every claſs of EQUESTRIAN DOCTORS, without diſtinction. BRACKEN, (as I have before obſerved) ſays, he attributed much of the virtue of rowelling to the good effects of *reſt* and *patience*; and I am not a little vain that we fall into a direct coincidence of opinion upon ſo principal a part of the ſubject.

Previous to the intended inveſtigation of their operative proceſs and effects, I cannot but expreſs my diſappointment in not finding ſomething more ſatisfactory from the very intelligent and much enlightened pen of Mr. Clarke, to whoſe profeſſional merits I ſhall ever be one of the firſt to ſubſcribe; though unluckily upon this head, he has not deſcanted with his wonted perſpicuity, but very much

much contracted his uſual portion of information; not condeſcending to beſtow a chapter of more than *five ſhort pages*, merely to explain the mechanical part of the operation, the places proper for inſertion, an inſinuation of the probable danger, and laſtly, as every writer has done before, boldly aſſerted their univerſal excellence, without a ſingle ſubſtantial proof, upon which their reputed efficacy can be judiciouſly founded.

"Rowels (ſays he) are of great uſe in carrying off rheums or defluxions from the eyes; in great ſwellings of the glands, &c. about the throat and jaws, which threaten a ſuffocation; or when the head ſeems particularly affected, as in the vertigo, or ſtaggers, apoplexy, &c. &c. in recent lameneſs; ſwellings of the legs and heels, attended with a diſcharge of thin ichorous matter, &c. in large and ſudden ſwellings in any part of the body; or when extravaſations of the fluids have taken place from blows, bruiſes, &c. or when a horſe has had a ſevere fall, &c. and in

in a variety of other cafes, which will occur to the judicious practitioner."

Without indulging the leaft defire or intention to animadvert with feverity upon the different writers who have thus rotationally reprefented the accumulated perfection of rowels, (that feem in their progrefs for the laft century, to have acquired, like the *noftrums* of the prefent day, the virtues of curing all difeafes) it is very natural to conclude, that the above lift, in each of which they are faid to be "of great ufe," with the repeated introduction of "et ceteras," and the variety of "other cafes fubmitted to the judicious practitioner," that there can be but *very few*, or in fact, *none*, to which they are not, in the opinions of *fome*, perfectly applicable *in one way or another*, perhaps in no one more than the felf-evident confolation, if it does *no good* it may do *no harm!* it will at any rate fupport the appearance of bufinefs! If NATURE effects her own purpofe and promotes a *cure*, the rowel will be entitled to a portion of credit, and the operator

perator to no ſmall ſhare of profeſſional reputation.

Theſe are privileges againſt the power of which there can be no appeal; but if we look into the operative proceſs of rowels with the eye of accuracy, and advert to their origin, we ſhall find they were introduced at a period much leſs enlightened; when the great efficacy of ALTERATIVES was but little, if at all known or eſtabliſhed to any degree of certainty, more particularly to thoſe who are generally entruſted with the medical ſuperintendance of horſes; that however expert or judicious they may prove in the operative parts of FARRIERY, muſt feel themſelves exceedingly mortified at knowing nothing of medicines, their origin, preparations, combinations, properties, or effects.

This univerſal deficiency ſo generally admitted, to which the major part of their profeſſional errors may be juſtly attributed, now bids fair to be reſcued from its diſgraceful ſtate of barbariſm, (under which ſtigma it has ſo long laboured) by a plan that

that is ſoon to be ſubmitted to Parliament by the ODIHAM AGRICULTURE SOCIETY, who have already made public (and ſolicited ſubſcriptions for the promotion of) their very laudable intention of ſending a certain number of youths annually to FRANCE for VETERINARIAN EDUCATION: Though it perhaps reflects no great degree of credit upon our own nation, that a ſtill more laudable plan could not have been adopted, by laying the foundation ſtone of ſuch inſtitution in this kingdom; where, by the means of inſtruction being local and more extenſive, the advantages muſt certainly become the ſooner general, than under the reſtraints of the preſent propoſition. For the very limited number (I believe *four* or *ſix*) that they intend ſending annually, under the uncertainty of pecuniary contribution from the purſes of individuals, affords every reaſon to ſuppoſe, upon the moſt moderate computation, that it muſt be at leaſt A CENTURY before the good effect of ſo deſirable an improvement can be *univerſally* experienced. But as every ſtep to general reformation muſt have obſtacles of much

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magnitude to ſurmount, under the conſolatory adage of "better *late* than *never*," every member of the community muſt wiſh it the moſt uninterrupted ſucceſs.

Returning to the operative part of our ſubject, and its ſalutary effects upon the conſtitution, it may be remembered, that rowels have been ſtrenuouſly recommended by advocates of every denomination, to draw off the corrupt or diſeaſed HUMOURS from *the blood*, leaving the remainder in a ſtate of purification; this, however, has never been roundly and boldly aſſerted as a fact not to be diſputed, but founded originally in conjecture, and puſillanimouſly reiterated accordingly. But for the moment, and better promotion of diſquiſition and the diſcovery of truth, let us admit the abſurdity; out of which will evidently ariſe a queſtion to eſtabliſh the fallacy of opinion founded in *error*, and foſtered by *ignorance*; *viz.* Whether any profeſſional writer, or ſcientific inveſtigator, will ſtand forth and ſay, the operative effect of a rowel is equally applicable to the difference of diſeaſe, ariſing from either a VIS-

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CID TENACITY; or an *acrimonious* and *impoveriſhed* ſtate of the blood?

For the preceding quotation from CLARKE, (which is in fact a quotation from all the reſt) evidently recommends it in a variety of diſorders reſulting from *each* of the *two*; and ſhould ſuch ſyſtem poſſeſs the happy influence of extracting (ſecundem artem) the foundation of diſeaſes clearly proceeding from properties in the blood *ſo directly oppoſite to each other*, and ſuch wonderful efficacy can be ſubſtantially corroborated; I ſhall cheerfully become a convert to the prevalent opinion of the vulcanian fraternity, and join in their unlimited repreſentation of GENERAL UTILITY. But till better and more profeſſional allegations are produced, to juſtify the indiſcriminate hold they have ſo long retained, (particularly in country practice); I ſhall conſcientiouſly forbear to contribute a ſingle encomium upon the great and almoſt infallible virtues, they have been ſo univerſally and erroneouſly *ſuppoſed* to poſſeſs.

All

All opinions have not only agreed, but experience has eſtabliſhed the fact, that the matter diſcharged from the rowels, is, as BRACKEN has firſt obſerved, "as certainly *blood* as that in the veins, barring the colour." This is re-aſſerted by every ſucceeding author, and can admit of no contrariety of opinion tending to cavil or controverſy; being a matter profeſſionally fixed beyond the poſſibility of either. What inference then is conſequently to be drawn from this admiſſion? Why, that every part of the circulation, (both in quantity and quality) contributes equally to that very diſcharge ſo ridiculouſly ſuppoſed to conſiſt of the *diſeaſed portion* only; when the inſertion has been as erroneouſly fixed upon or near to ſome particular part, to be intentionally relieved by the partial power of ſuch artificial evacuation; conſtituting a ſecond blunder upon the palpable foundation of the former. For it muſt prove a diſgraceful proſtitution of even *common comprehenſion*, to indulge the leaſt idea, that a larger portion of craſſamentum or ſerum can individually undergo a greater

change or rectification in ſeparation and extravaſation than the other.

It being therefore proved nothing more or leſs (diveſted of technical terms and ambiguous reaſoning) than a gradual depletion of the blood veſſels, (diveſted of its ſanguinary appearance, and becoming matter by the natural proceſs of extravaſation and rarefaction) let us deciſively pronounce what ſuch conſtant evacuation can be productive of in its effects; I believe I may venture to pronounce every profeſſor of phyſic or farriery will perfectly agree with me, in confirming it nothing more than a certain mode of reducing the habit by drawing off a greater portion of blood in every twenty-four hours, than is generated by the nutritive property of the given quantity of aliment, allowed for ſubſiſtence in the ſame ſpace of time; though it is, *in all caſes*, ridiculouſly conceived, that by reducing the bodily ſtrength, you infallibly ſubdue the predominance of diſeaſe alſo.

We now arrive at the very line of diſtinction neceſſary to be drawn in all caſes, where

where a rowel is, or can be ſuppoſed to become at all adequate to the taſk it is aſſigned. For inſtance, in caſes ariſing from cauſes threatening inflammation, or ſuch groſs impurities as are evidently the effect of a crude and viſcid ſtate of the blood, (it being firſt properly aſcertained) they have moſt certainly much in their favour upon the well-founded maxim before quoted, "if they do *no good*, they *may* do no harm;" it is certainly no bad plan *in ſporting* to obtain as many points as poſſible in your favour: But as I will by no means recommend to the practice of others, what I would cautiouſly avoid in my own; I muſt confeſs they ſhould never be brought into immediate uſe in ſtables under my ſuperintendance, till the more rational and mild methods of *Evacuants* and *Diuretics* (according to the nature, duration and ſeverity of the caſe) had been tried without probability or indications of ſucceſs. And this idea of procraſtination is held forth only upon what I term a very ſufficient foundation; for what man living, in poſſeſſion of free agency, and the happy power of reflection, would (after proper deli-

beration) consent to perforate the hide of his horse, and stand the doubtful chances of complicated disquietude, a lucky formation and fortunate flow of matter; an ill-conditioned wound, inveterate ulcer, or prominent cicatrix, constituting an irreparable blemish, when it can be so readily avoided?

But admitting, in compliment to ancient practice, their utility to be obvious in the inflammatory or viscid cases before recited; let us make a fair and candid enquiry into the list of Mr. CLARKE'S not long since quoted, (which is, in fact, BRACKEN'S, BARTLET'S, and OSMER'S also) and openly acknowledge where it will be proper to coalesce, and where dissent from such opinions; that their *great and indiscriminate merit* may with propriety come before that public tribunal, to whose decisive arbitration every *literary disquisitionist* must ultimately submit.

That the subject (and of importance it certainly is) may meet the eye and attract the judgment of every unbiassed investi-

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gator with all poſſible clearneſs; it ſhall be perfectly diveſted of every ambiguity and remote conſideration, by re-ſtating ſingly the caſes in which the different authors have ſo laviſhly recommended their uſe; admitting the propriety of their introduction where their good effects become *probable* upon profeſſional reaſoning, or condemning the adoption where I feel myſelf juſtified in ſupporting a contrary opinion.

We are firſt told, "Rowels are of great uſe in carrying off rheums or defluxions of the eyes;" but as no profeſſional proofs have been adduced, or caſes authenticated, by any author whatever, to confirm *this opinion*, it is very natural to wiſh for information, whether this "USE" has been aſcertained *in effect*, with or without the aſſiſtance of *cathartics*, *diuretics*, or *alteratives*, one of which, in theſe caſes, is generally called in to their aſſiſtance: But as the effect of ſuch medicines are not *externally perceptible*, their proportional ſervices are buried in oblivion, (as not being brought totally to proof) and the glory of the victory, if obtained, is attri-

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buted to ROWELLING, as a favourite ſpecies of practice, not to be violated by the *rude* and *uncultivated* dictates of modern improvement. I muſt confeſs, in the caſes we now ſpeak of, I ſhould by no means *too haſtily* recommend their inſertion; but proceeding with a proper degree of conſiſtency, according to the apparent cauſe from a ſtate of the blood, prefer a courſe of *diuretics* or *alteratives*, (as the caſe might require) and reſerve the operation of rowelling as my laſt reſource, when every other method had failed of the expected ſucceſs.

"In great ſwellings of the glands, &c. about the throat and jaws, which threaten a ſuffocation."—This is a recommendation ſo directly contrary to every ſyſtematic and ſcientific proceeding, that I ſhall confine both my ſurprize and remarks merely to a profeſſional explanation; and the introduction of my *own opinion*, in oppoſition *to theirs*. If the ſwellings were ſo alarming as to "threaten ſuffocation," and afforded no hope of ſpeedy maturation, by topical applications, (which muſt ever prove the moſt

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eligible and consistent method of relief) surely *immediate*, *repeated*, and *occasional* discharges of blood, must contribute, in many ways, to a removal of the danger apprehended, in causing some degree of revulsion by depletion; which will undoubtedly, by relieving the circulation, reduce the described stricture upon the parts, and render such proceeding very far preferable to the certain hazard and tedious expectation of at *least three days*, for the bare chance of very slowly counteracting what "suffocation" might prevent; long before one, or *a multiplicity of rowels*, could arrive at a proper degree of suppuration. And this is the very predominant reason why I think they are by no means to be relied on in acute cases of danger and emergency; so much as repeated bleedings, and such evacuations as become MORE SPEEDILY effectual upon the frame and constitution.

"When the head seems particularly affected, as in the vertigo or staggers, apoplexy, &c. &c." — In these cases, after proper bleedings, (which must precede every other consideration) a proper examination of the blood,

and a neceſſary removal of inteſtinal obſtructions, if they ſhould be found requiſite; I cannot have the leaſt objection to the inſertion of a rowel, *or rowels*, provided the patient (in either caſe) can be prevailed upon to live *three or four days*, to try the effect of the experiment; and this I admit upon a recommendation in my former volume, that "increaſing appearances of danger muſt juſtify exertions of alacrity and fortitude:" Although I muſt confeſs my apprehenſion that either of the above caſes, (unleſs early counteracted by the judicious interpoſition of other adminiſtrations) muſt gain ground *too rapidly* upon the ſyſtem, to undergo a ſudden change of improvement, by means ſo very tardy in the effects of their operation.

"In recent lameneſs."—Why in *recent lameneſs*, and before any of the milder methods are introduced, I am at a loſs to conceive; but upon preſumption that every other probable remedy is ſet at defiance, for the more applicable introduction of REST, I ſtart not the moſt trifling objection, convinced it is the only plea that can be offered

fered for the *inapplicable introduction* of the ROWEL.

" Swelling of the legs and heels, attended with a discharge of thin ichorous matter, &c." — I imagine, in such case, the rowel is meant to be inserted after a non-submission to the entire classes of *alteratives* and *diuretics*; whose efficacious powers must be too well established, by those who have experienced their excellent properties, to be entirely rejected, without such trial as they are justly intitled to by their rank in experimental practice.

" In large and sudden swellings in any part of the body." — This is a recommendation so vague, loose, and indefinite, that it will hardly admit of construction or determination; as " large and sudden swellings" may arise from various causes, requiring very different modes of treatment, it is natural to conclude, (indeed to prove by practical demonstration) that *sudden* appearances must frequently justify much MORE SUDDEN means of counteraction, than patiently waiting, *day after day*, for the expected and precarious

discharge

discharge of a rowel, that, after all the suspence, may probably terminate unfavourably, to the loss of the subject and mortification of the owner.

" When extravasations of the fluids have taken place from blows, bruises, &c."— Here I cannot hesitate a moment to acquiesce in the proposition, provided the insertion can conveniently take place immediately *upon* or *close* to the part affected: If that cannot be done, I object to the attempt; as the " extravasated fluids" must be absorbed into the circulation before they can attain the place of discharge. If which can be accomplished, they may then be carried off by different evacuants, without recourse to such means; but if I perfectly comprehend the allusion, it is supposed to convey an idea of " extravasated fluids," become stagnant by length of time, and not to be resorbed into the circulation by any probable means whatever. In which case the rowel may be adopted WITH PROPRIETY, provided it is inserted under the advantages I have just described; that is, directly *upon*, or immediately contiguous to, *the seat of disease.*

" When

"When a horse has had a severe fall, &c. and in a variety of other cases which will occur to the judicious practitioner." — This proposition covers such a wonderful *scope of possibility*, and includes such a variety of latitude for the enquirer; that it is by far too unlimited in its comprehension to admit a tedious enumeration of remarks applicable to even *half the cases* that may be brought into the scale of imaginary probability. This will forcibly affect the judgment of every Reader, if he condescends, for a few moments only, to recollect the ways a horse may be affected by a "severe fall," are so very numerous, that the advice here given (in so extensive a degree) must prove conditionally dependant upon, and be regulated entirely by, the opinion of those to whom the superintendance of such cases become subject, rendering every farther remark upon this passage extraneous and unnecessary.

After the strictest attention to, and investigation of this system, (anciently adopted and transmitted, like domestic property, or professional implements of *bellows*, *anvil*, *hammer*, and *vice*, from sire to son) I feel impartially

impartially influenced to declare myſelf a very ſlender advocate for their continuance in practice upon the baſis of GENERAL UTILITY. There may be ſome few caſes, and thoſe few very confined in number, where, from a non-ſubmiſſion to the dictates of a more rational application, experiments may be made by the credulous, of their *ſo universal reputation*: But I am induced moſt heartily to believe, ſuch alternative muſt be adopted much more upon the conſtruction of HOPE, than the too flattering proſpect of EXPECTATION.

For my own part, voluntarily embarked in a conditional truſt of honour with the public, for the promotion of equeſtrian improvements by every rational and ſcientific means, that can be advanced upon the face of well founded opinion or practical experience; it is impoſſible for me to acquieſce in the recommendation of their inſertion, in the variety of indiſcriminate caſes before recited; from which I have withheld my approbation upon the firmeſt conviction, that no ſyſtematic ſubſtantiated reaſons have ever been promulgated, demonſtrating the operative

rative proceſs upon the animal œconomy, from which their *reported good effects* are SUPPOSED TO BE PRODUCED.

I believe I have before hinted their being originally adopted in times of greater obſcurity; when the minds and manners were not only much leſs enlightened, but the almoſt incredible property and power of medicine not then diſcovered and brought palpably home, as it now is, to the moſt obſtinate incredulity. In the remote age of this invention, the volume of medical improvement might be juſtly conſidered in its infancy, emerging from the early efforts of antiquity; from which it has continued in gradual refinement, to its preſent period of profeſſional ſplendor, under the indefatigable auſpices of thoſe, whoſe literary additions to the works of ſcience, will perpetuate their memories very far beyond any effuſions that can poſſibly fall from the grateful pen of humble admiration.

It muſt therefore ſuffice in additional confirmation of the improvement we applaud, to obſerve, that even in private practice a-

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mongſt the human ſpecies, thoſe analagous operations, ISSUES and SETONS, in the courſe of the laſt forty or fifty years, are *comparatively obliterated*; bearing no kind of proportion in common uſe, being but very ſeldom either adviſed or adopted, but where the parties, from an invincible perſonal or *pecuniary* averſion to medicine, cannot be prevailed upon to undergo ſuch courſe as may evidently repair the *conſtitution*, to a certain partial *conſumption* of the purſe.

After every obſervation I have been able to deduce from theory, every remark I could collect in practice, and every information to be derived from thoſe VULCANIAN VETERINARIANS I have had the *honor to conſult*; after the analyzation of its phyſical proceſs upon the frame; its being immediately and equally fed from the fountain of circulation and ſupport; a proper inveſtigation and expoſure of the ridiculous idea of *partially* drawing off *corrupt* or *diſeaſed* particles from the blood, that the animal may "live the purer with the other half;" and laſtly, the more contemptible propagation of their being found applicable *to all diſeaſes*, without a ſingle

ſingle profeſſional proof manfully and ſcientifically demonſtrated, that they are abſolutely neceſſary or infallible IN ONE; it can create no admiration that I feel myſelf juſtified in offering to the world an opinion, very little ſubſervient to the ſuperficial deciſions of thoſe who have preceded me upon this ſubject.

Under the combined weight of theſe conſiderations, and ſo far as they entitle me to offer judgment, I dare venture to pronounce and promulgate ſuch belief, that there are only a very few caſes in which they are either individually *neceſſary* or *uſeful*; having it *at all* in their *effects*, the POWER to produce any ſuch change in, or improvement upon, the conſtitution, but what may be more conſiſtently (and to a greater certainty) produced by judicious interpoſition of *evacuants*, *diuretics*, *alteratives*, or ſuch other claſs of medicines, as upon accurate inveſtigation of the cauſe and reference to ſymptoms, may be found correſponding with the caſe and its explanatory parts, in our former volume, more particularly adapted to medical diſquiſition and the cure of diſeaſe.

The

The cafes to which they may be in fome degree adapted, bearing profeffional traits in their favour, are, partial fwellings of fome duration, originally occafioned by extravafated fluids become too vifcid by ftagnation to be reforbed into the circulation; cutaneous difeafes not fpeedily fubmitting to the courfe of medicines adapted to their peculiar clafs; inveterate lamenefs of long ftanding in the fhoulders or ligamentary parts, by the retention of inflammatory matter firft fixed there by the improper and too free ufe of fpirituous applications; and afthmatic complaints upon a confirmation of their non-fubmiffion to conditional bleedings, a moderate ufe of nitre, and fuch courfe of pectoral detergents as will be found recommended under that head. In each of which, I fhould not hefitate a moment to urge the propriety of inferting the rowel as near the caufe of complaint as poffible; that the flux of matter (though collected from the circulation) might flow directly from, or as contiguous to the feat as circumftances will permit; and that fuch local infertion may contribute affiftance to whatever utility they poffefs, in unloading to a certainty the

the neighbouring veſſels concerned in the caſes we have juſt deſcribed: The advantage naturally reſulting from ſuch precaution, becoming too evidently obvious to require farther anatomical deſcription or phyſical diſquiſition; the minutiæ of which, (ſo far as it appertains to the operation in queſtion) having been largely and accurately explained in the definition of HUMOURS, under the laſt article of EXERCISE, and the preſent upon ROWELLING, cannot ſtand in the leaſt need of additional elucidation to render the whole perfectly intelligible to every comprehenſion.

HUNTERS.

The particular management of horſes paſſing under this denomination will appear to many matter of ſo little conſequence, that it muſt create ſurpriſe how any thing *new* can be introduced upon a ſubject *they conceive* ſo univerſally and perfectly underſtood. However ſuch opinion may be eſtabliſhed in the contracted minds

of thoſe who exiſt only in error, and never condeſcend to ſanction the moſt promiſing ray of improvement; the great number of valuable horſes that have loſt their lives, either in or immediately after the chace, in the two laſt ſeaſons only, with his Majeſty's, his Royal Highneſs the Prince of Wales's, Lord Barrymore's, and Captain Parker's hounds, are demonſtrative proofs of *inability* in the grooms, or *indiſcretion* in the riders; as well as collateral corroboration that the ſyſtem of perfection, is not yet attained even in the firſt hunting ſtables of faſhion and eminence.

Without preſuming to arraign, in, the preſent inſtance, the judgment of *one*, or the prudence of the *other*, I ſhall proceed to lay down ſuch rules for the ſelection of hunters, and the minute particulars of their management, as have for a ſeries of more than twenty years enabled me to enjoy the pleaſures of the chace with a multiplicity of the fleeteſt and moſt popular packs in different parts of the kingdom; without one of thoſe unlucky contingencies, that ſo frequently throw leſs thinking, or leſs experienced

enced ſportſmen into the back ground of the picture with mortification and diſgrace.

It ſhould be indelible in the mind of every juvenile and recent ſportſman, that to bring a horſe into the field *out of condition*, incurs inſtantaneous *ſuſpicion*, if not contempt; the curioſity (not to ſay inſulting indifference) of every ſpectator is excited, who fortunately excels in the figure or qualifications of his ſteed, and the ſuperiority of his equipments. And this is not at all to be wondered at, when thoſe entirely unacquainted with the fact are informed; that as much emulation is perceptible in the diſplay of a *ſporting apparatus*, as in the exulting ſplendor of a birth day appearance in the vicinity of St. James's: Not only the Riders, but their Horses are fraught with the infectious ſpirit of rivalſhip; and impatiently wait the moment, that inſpires each with the vigour of general contention.

Horſes imperfect in their appearance, with fulneſs of the legs, foulneſs in the coat, cracks

in the heels, or poverty in the frame, are immediately ſurveyed with the eye of attentive inſpection; this *oblique* but *accurate* ſurvey as certainly terminates to the diſcredit of the maſter as the prejudice of the ſervant, leaving no favourable impreſſion of their ſtable management at home, or equeſtrian prudence in the field.

External deficiency is not the only inconvenience ariſing from improper condition; the concomitant ills reſulting from it, are not unfrequently attended with the moſt ſerious conſequences. Horſes for the very ſevere and ſtrong chaces with STAG or FOX, ſhould have both the *blood* and *body* regulated to the higheſt degree of purity and perfection; ſuch ſyſtem of information may be readily acquired by proper attention to the neceſſary inculcation and judicious obſervation, previous to the commencement of the ſeaſon. This fact, founded upon the criterion of experience, naturally leads us into an enquiry what thoſe preparations are, and the neceſſity for their introduction: Theſe we ſhall conſequently advert to, but not without an oblique remembrance of, and reference to, thoſe Cynical cavilliſts who (apprehending no dan-

till

till they feel it) set *physic at defiance*; and never submit to acknowledge its utility, till the total loss of one horse and the irreparable injury to another, demonstrate the absurdity of their ill-founded objections; compulsively adding them in rotation, to the annually encreasing list of converts, to a rational systematic mode of stabularian improvement.

Such obstinate non-compliance with the justified dictates of safety resulting from experience, can arise only from a total want of thought, or knowledge of the animal economy; by which every *secretion*, *evacuation*, motion and labour is regulated, or action controuled. From the concurring force of this reflection, let every SPORTSMAN whose mind is at all open to the rays of refinement, (and who has not, like TONY LUMPKIN, imbibed his entire stock of penetration from the apron-string of a Mrs. *Hardcastle*, conducting his whole affairs by "the rule of Thumb,") consider the absolute necessity of bestowing some little occasional attention to the indications of NATURE; the direct process of *aliment* and *digestion*, with its subsequent source of *nutrition*; enabling himself to ascertain (at least with some degree of precision) the state

 of

of his own horſes in ſickneſs or health; to diſcover their neceſſities, and preſcribe the remedies, without a degrading dependence upon the accumulated ignorance and affected conſequence of every illiterate *groom*, *oſtler*, or *ſtable boy*; who, it is univerſally known, proudly poſſeſs obſolete receipts for every poſſible diſeaſe to which the horſe is liable, (without its containing perhaps one applicable ingredient) and will valiantly vouch for the INFALLIBILITY OF ITS VIRTUES, though it is ten to one he is totally unacquainted with the articles of which it is compoſed, and ſtill more probably has not ability to read the *very farrago* he ſo confidently recommends.

This evil has originally ariſen, and been encreaſed in its growth, by too implicit (or rather too indolent) a ſubmiſſion of maſters in general, to the indiſcreet (not to add *ſometimes infernal)* and ridiculous propoſitions of theſe people, upon whoſe deſtructive affectation of knowledge I have already ſo repeatedly expatiated under different heads; but am by practical obſervations, as often brought to a renewal of the ſubject, to place every gentleman

tleman or ſportſman on his guard againſt their inceſſant obtruſions of medical judgment; having within the laſt few days, heard a moſt illiterate puppy of the claſs deſcribed, propoſe the inſinuation of *lump ſugar* for a defect IN THE EYE, without a ſingle reaſon to aſſign for the ſupport of his recommendation, but that " it was like enough to do it good."

This idea is too ſublime and expanded for a ſingle remark in animadverſion; but ſurely every proprietor of horſes muſt find it greatly conducive to a promotion of his own eaſe and intereſt, if he would condeſcend to pay ſuch attention to this ſubject, as might undoubtedly contribute a proportion of confidence to his additional knowledge; and totally exculpate him from the mortifying predicament of appealing to the barren capacity of his ſervant in a MATTER OF MAGNITUDE, whoſe underſtanding or inſtructions he would not ſubmit to *conſult*, or even condeſcend to *hear*, upon much more inferior occaſions.

There has always exiſted a diverſity of

 opinions

opinions reſpecting the propriety of purging horſes previous to the commencement of the hunting ſeaſon; and this as I have before hinted, has been one of the long ſtanding diſhes of contention between the *rights and the wrongs*; it will be therefore expected (by thoſe impartial inveſtigators who are not blinded by invincible prejudice, but open to the conviction ariſing from reaſon) that ſomething ſhould now be advanced to juſtify or condemn, what from not profeſſionally underſtanding the operative proceſs of, or its effects upon the frame, has hitherto ſuſpended their opinions, not knowing *with juſtice* which method to avoid, which to purſue.

That the matter may, however, be brought nearer the criterion of deciſion, by being more clearly explained; I ſhall endeavour (without indulging a wiſh to attract unneceſſarily the attention of any reader from what he may conceive an object of greater importance) to convey ſuch deſcription of its neceſſity, its operation upon the blood, and ſalutary effects upon the conſtitution; as I am induced to believe will prevent the *conſiſtency* of PURGING being longer a matter of

controverſy;

controversy; but that upon certain and proper occasions, it will become universally adopted under the conditional regulations so accurately explained in our former volume of this work. Those instructions, however, appertaining more particularly to the composition of various forms, the act of administration, and the mode of action upon the intestinal contents; we advert now to the more remote consideration of its *operative effects* upon the ENTIRE SYSTEM, in justification of its adoption previous to the annual exertions of violence, that so evidently encrease the velocity of the blood.

It may be remembered, that in my former volume, under instructions for getting horses into *condition*, I have recommended the operation of bleeding in a few days after being taken from grass; by saying, "a proportion may be taken away, according to the size, state, strength, and temperament of the horse, with due attention to the flesh he may have gained, or the impurities he may have imbibed with his pasture." This passage is so truly expressive, and conveys to the mind so much in so short a manner, that I have been induced

induced to repeat the very words; as directly conducive to the ſupport of an aſſertion frequently brought forward, "the great advantage of diſcovering the true ſtate of the blood."

The reaſons are not only exceedingly obvious, but have been in their reſpective parts ſo minutely explained, that there is barely room to urge the propriety and enforce the utility of what ought to be laid down as the almoſt fundamental rule of *phyſical* rectification; and, however abſtruſe ſuch reaſoning may appear to the unſcientific and ſuperficial part of the vulcanian fraternity, denominated FARRIERS; I heſitate not a moment to affirm, there are very many caſes, in which I ſhould be profeſſionally induced to regulate the PHYSIC in both *quantity* and *quality*, by appearances accurately drawn from the ſtate of the blood only.

What! (ſays the ſurpriſed and divided reader) when his Majeſty's Farrier for Scotland has confidently aſſured us, and under the honourable ſanction of royal appoint-

ment,

ment; that no discovery can be made from the blood in any state whatever! That "blood drawn from a horse who is evidently disordered, will sometimes have the same appearance when cold, as that drawn from a horse in health." And, *hey presto!* VICE VERSA! "On the other hand, blood drawn from a horse in health, will sometimes have all the appearance of that drawn from one labouring under the most dangerous disease." All this Mr. Clarke may "*most potently believe,*" yet "I hold it wrong to have it thus set down;" it bears so great an affinity to the *ambiguous putting off* of HAMLET to his inquisitive companions, when he seriously assures them,

> "There's ne'er a villain dwelling in all Denmark,
> "But he's an arrant knave."

However, that jarring opinions may be the more easily reconciled, I will venture to conclude for this very judicious and enlightened writer, that he intended to have *said*, or wished it to be *understood*; That the cases in which the blood of *diseased horses* bore the appearance of *horses in health,*

health, were thoſe very few in which the ſtate of the blood is not ſymptomatically affected by the diſeaſe; as *flatulent* or *inflammatory cholic*, *ſtrangury*, and *worms*. But the better to exculpate myſelf from the accuſation or even unjuſt ſuſpicion of indulging the ſhadow of inclination to arraign the authority, or ſport with the judgment I ſo very much reſpect; let us charitably adopt AN ALTERNATIVE, and ſuppoſe, what is not only *poſſible* but *probable*, that as the horſes in that country differ ſo very materially from ours, (as thoſe can teſtify who have viſited the ſpot, and recollect their appearance,) why may not the *fluids* partake of the contraſt? and their properties not being ſo eaſily or accurately analized as in the more fertile regions of the ſouth; the line of diſtinction we may naturally conclude is circumſcribed by the vermicular boundary of the *Tweed*, conſtituting other diverſities of equal admiration.

From this digreſſion, ſo unavoidably neceſſary to juſtify my former recommendation of BLEEDING, under proper reſtrictions, we return to the conſideration of

PURGING;

Purging; upon the very ſalutary and judicious interpoſition of which, I have already given my decided opinion as to its general utility, though I do not mean to aſſert myſelf an advocate for its *indiſcriminate* adminiſtration, without due deference to the *cauſe* and *condition* of the ſubject. I wiſh by no means to be conſidered an invariable friend to unneceſſary evacuations; perfectly convinced they are only *abſolutely* requiſite, under the weight of injudicious accumulation. I therefore beg no miſconſtruction may be put upon the theſis I advance, which is, that EVACUATIONS become not only *proper* but *indiſpenſible*, when a horſe is SO MUCH ABOVE HIMSELF in condition, that he evidently diſplays the advancing progreſs and ill effects of repletion (ariſing from full feed and irregular exerciſe) in the variety of ways ſo repeatedly deſcribed; not only under other heads in this, but different parts of the former volume, where the ſtate of the blood neceſſarily became the ſubject of diſquiſition.

From what has been ſo fully advanced upon

upon the articles of nutrition, circulation, evacuation, and exercise, it must be perfectly and systematically clear to every comprehension; that a horse too plethoric in habit, too much loaded with flesh, too viscid in the state of his blood, or too little accustomed to exercise, can never be brought into such strong exertions as the chace, without a very great probability of exciting inflammation, that may terminate in different degrees of disease, danger, and disquietude. Admitting therefore its indispensible necessity with horses of the above description, it must be taken into the aggregate; that although great inconveniencies and distressing circumstances may *possibly* arise, from the want of precaution in not bringing such preventatives into use, where the frame is replete with impurities; it can by no means follow that by the omission, with horses in any *tolerable condition*, the probable consequence becomes inevitable.

To draw the line of distinction between subjects rendering it a matter of necessity *with one*, or prudence and prevention only

only with *another*; it muſt be candidly acknowledged, that inſtances frequently occur, where horſes perfectly clean, healthy, and without viſible cauſe to ſuſpect foulneſs in the body, or impurity in the blood, have by proper attention to ſtable management, good feeding, and regular exercise, been brought into the field in no degraded condition, and gone through the ſeaſon with a moderate degree of perfection. Though this ſhould not be attempted till an attentive obſervation to the ſtate of the *coat*, *eyes*, *legs*, *heels*, the *wind* in bruſhing gallops, and the quality or appearance of the perſpirative matter in the act of tranſpiration, may juſtify a reliance upon the faith of experiments; as latent impurities, or groſs viſcidities may remain dormant in the conſtitution, till rouſed into action by effects too numerous and extenſive to admit of reiterated explanation, without deviating too largely from the ſubject it is our preſent purpoſe to purſue.

Having introduced remarks that were unavoidable, to demonſtrate the conſiſtency of carrying off ſuch ſuperflux as may conſtitute

ſtitute a preternatural weight upon the animal œconomy, by encumbering the infinity of finer veſſels ſo exquiſitely concerned in ſecretion and circulation, throwing the more noble parts of the machine into diſorder; we proceed to explain the operative proceſs and effects of CATHARTIC EVACUANTS upon the general ſyſtem; by which phyſical operation, nature becomes gradually relieved from the plethoric burthen of repletion, affecting even the moſt diſtant parts of the extremities, by means ſo univerſally known and repeatedly deſcribed.

PURGING in its common and ſuperficial acceptation with the unenlightened multitude, is conſidered merely as a ready and convenient mode of expelling a load of accumulated contents from the ſtomach, or excrements from the inteſtines; without a relative conſideration, or ſingle idea of its more remote and ſalutary influence upon thoſe parts of the frame, that are in general eſtimation ſuppoſed to be very little concerned in the operation or its effects.

To

To elucidate this matter, and render it perfectly comprehensible, (with as little reference as possible to abstruse reasoning or anatomical disquisition) let it be understood, that the internal coat of the stomach is so plentifully portioned with branches from the nervous system, that it may with great propriety be termed the joint seat of irritability; for exclusive of the acting stimulus of the cathartic medicines upon the extreme sensibility of the nerves, so innumerably dispersed in their different ramifications, they act also by irritation upon the mouths of the *lacteals* and *lymphatics*, exciting a continued and proportional emission of their contents into the intestinal canal, so long as the stimulative properties of the medicine may have power to act; during which such absorption of LYMPH, and regurgitation of CHYLE, intermixes with, and is carried off by the excrements.

By this constant *stimulus* upon the exquisite sensibility of the stomach and intestines, the vermicular motion is not only excited to a more frequent discharge of its contents, but its continued irritation of the vascular system

produces an increaſed ſecretion of *lymph* and *chyle*, which, in the proceſs of abſorption and contribution to the excrementitious expulſion, is proportionally ſupplied (or the veſſels repleniſhed) from even the moſt diſtant part of the extremities; which evidently accounts for the viſible advantages ariſing from a courſe of phyſic, when a horſe labours under the inconveniencies reſulting from repletion; and is ſaid, in the *Vulcanian phraſeology*, to have the HUMOURS fallen into the legs, or fixed upon any particular part of the frame.

Thus much is introduced to render perfectly clear, what I term the mechanical proceſs of purgation; by ſtrictly attending to which it will evidently appear, that the weaker a cathartic is in its property, the leſs it will affect the fluids ſuſpended in different parts of the frame; for its *firſt ſtimulus* acting upon the nervous ſyſtem as the *moſt irritable*, the lymphatics and lacteals become only the ſecondary ſeat of provocation, and are proportionally acted upon as the PHYSIC is increaſed in its power of ſtimulation.

From this very neceſſary remark, I mean to infer,

infer, and wish it to be generally and incontrovertibly understood and held in remembrance, that a very moderate dose of physic will act in a great degree upon the irritability of the stomach and intestines *only*, exciting a discharge of their contents, as before described; while its increased strength will, by its *additional stimulus* upon and persevering irritation of the finer vessels, excite their regurgitative contribution to the general evacuation, so long as the irritating properties of the cathartic shall retain the power of acting upon the vascular system; which differing so very much in different subjects, requires proper discrimination in the composition of purging medicines, consequently, should always be carefully adapted to the state, constitution, and bodily strength of the horse.

This naturally leads us to an enquiry of the different degrees of PHYSIC, as most applicable to the various occasions for which they are brought into use. It evidently appears by the above investigation, that the *milder cathartics* act superficially, merely to discharge the contents of the intestinal canal;

nal; and are therefore calculated as preventatives to the *poſſible* inconveniencies of impending repletion; preſervatives of health, or neceſſary preludes to the completion of PERFECT CONDITION.

The ſame elucidation likewiſe demonſtrates the conſiſtency of increaſing the proportions, or enlarging the doſes, when more diſtant ſervices are expected by calling the remote powers into action, for the purpoſes ſo particularly explained; for inſtance, in great repletion of the veſſels, fulneſs of the carcaſe, heavineſs of the head and eyes, ſwelling and tenſion of the legs, and ſuch other cauſes as will be hereafter explained. *Gentle cathartics*, acting merely as obſervable laxatives, can never be expected to reach the ſeat of theſe complaints; ſuch BRISK PURGES only can be adopted with propriety, as will, by their continued ſtimulus, come into contact with, and additionally act upon, the very *interſtices* of the ſtomach and inteſtines, after the excrementitious ſuperflux is thrown off; exciting, by ſuch means, the lymphatics and lacteals to *diſgorge* ſome portion of their *extra contents*, (diſtinguiſhed, from time immemorial,

memorial, by the appellation of HUMOURS) to be ultimately carried off with the remaining efforts of inteſtinal expulſion.

If any farther explanation can be at all required, to render this proceſs more intelligible to the dulleſt of comprehenſions, I muſt beg permiſſion to recommend ſuch Reader to a retroſpective recollection of his own ſenſations towards the concluding operation of an emetic, or cathartic; when I believe it will immediately occur to his remembrance, that the irritation of the veſſels was much more ſevere and effectual, (proved by the repeated ſtrainings) than in the preceding diſcharges when the contents were expelled with much greater eaſe to the patient, though leſs efficacy upon the frame.

As I have juſt hinted, there are other diſorders, or rather *advanced ſtages*, of thoſe laſt deſcribed, (and for which "briſk purges" are recommended,) that require a ſtill more peculiar mode of counter-action; as horſes ſubject to, or labouring under, inveterate *cracks* in the heels; oozing indications of, or palpable greaſe; cutaneous *eruptions*; vaſ-

cular *knots*, or *tubercles*, the evident effects of plenitude; *worms*, or fluctuating pains in the limbs, occasioning alternate *lameness* in one part or another. In all which cases, it is to be observed, horses should never have their exercise or labour increased, to the least degree of violent exertion; without first undergoing EVACUATIONS of such kind, as become immediately applicable to the case in question.

For my own part, I feel myself powerfully influenced to recommend the early administration of *mercurial purges*, accurately proportioned to the state of the subject and prevalence or duration of disease; and this upon the experimental basis of minute attention to their singular effects upon the constitutions of horses, in a variety of instances that perfectly justify me in communicating ESTABLISHED PROOFS of their superior excellence, not only in the different cases just recited, but in many others, that it would be foreign to our present purpose to enumerate.

To prevent a perpetual obtrusion of tech-

nical myſtery, or medical diſquiſition, by enlarging upon the means of the mercurial particles entering into contact with the blood; its power of attenuation, gradual diſſolution of the fluids and gentle ſtimulation of the ſolids, (which muſt at all times hang heavy upon the mind of the unſcientific enquirer); we muſt let our abbreviated alluſion ſuffice, as a more ſatisfactory mode of intelligent information, than a tedious chain of phyſical definition, that it may be thought has been already introduced by much too often.

In this tribute to the almoſt incredible effects derived from the judicious and ſalutary interpoſition of MERCURIAL CATHARTICS, I beg to diſclaim every idea of patronizing ſuch compoſitions, prepared from the preſcriptive ſcraps of antiquity, in the poſſeſſion of every *bellows blower* in the kingdom; not more in reſpect to the probable diſproportion and certain danger of their ingredients, than the abſurd, improper, and indiſcriminate mode of introduction. Of theſe preparations, as of the various noſtrums and quack medicines of the preſent day, I hold

the ſame uniform and invariable opinion; that the public are eternally peſtered with innumerable advertiſements, announcing the *miraculous cures*, (NATURE HAS PERFORMED) but not a ſingle word of the many thouſands ſuch medicines have deſtroyed: So true it is, "*dead men tell no tales*."

Having gone through what I conceived a duty incumbent, reſpecting the operation of phyſic and its effects upon the frame, to elucidate (as much as circumſtances would permit) a ſubject that has been hitherto conſidered as ſufficient matter to juſtify and ſupport a contrariety of opinions; I muſt, (after giving it ſuch profeſſional explanation as my ſlender abilities were adequate to) ſubmit the propriety of the practice, *under conditional regulations*, to the deciſion of thoſe who may do me the honour of minutely inveſtigating, what has been neceſſarily advanced for general conſideration: Begging permiſſion to obſerve, that particular inſtructions for the management of horſes under the operation of PHYSIC, may be found in the former volume under that head; the preſent pages having been dedicated entirely to the operative

rative proceſs and its effects upon the conſtitution, for the purpoſe of *univerſal*, or rather *common* comprehenſion.

That taſk having been at length performed, we take leave of the dry and unentertaining ſtudy of medical abſtruſity, and proceed to ſuch part of our plan as will prove more entertaining and acceptable to thoſe, who may condeſcend to conſult us for either amuſement or information. I have promiſed under the preſent head, rules for the ſelection of HUNTERS, and ſome uſeful hints for their management in the ſtable and chace. In reſpect to the former, ſuch deſcriptive parts as conſtitute uniformity and the points of perfection, will be found ſo accurately delineated in the early pages of our former volume, that its repetition would bear too much the appearance of literary impoſition; from which accuſation, it has been our earneſt endeavour, in every page, to ſtand clearly exculpated.

Upon the ſubject of ſelection there can therefore be but little to introduce beyond the neceſſity of adhering in choice, as much

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as poſſible to thoſe that are *well-bred*, or, in other words, ſuch as come the neareſt in pedigree, ſymmetry, faſhion, and apparent ſtrength to thoſe in conſtant uſe for the turf, bearing the denomination and figure of BLOOD HORSES, as moſt adequate in ſpeed and durability *(termed bottom)* to long and ſevere chaces with fleet hounds or in deep countries; under which, horſes of an inferior deſcription ſo frequently ſink for want of that conſtitutional ſtamina or inherent fortitude, that horſes of high pedigrees are ſo eminently known to poſſeſs.

From this eſtabliſhed and incontrovertible fact, we are naturally induced to introduce a few oblique remarks upon the very neceſſary qualification of "BONE;" ſo faſhionably and eternally echoed and tranſmitted (in equeſtrian inſpection) from one affected puppy to another, that they ſeem to have anticipated, or rather premeditated, the inexpreſſible pleaſure of diſcovering what they call "*a want of bone*" in the horſes of *others*, that they unluckily ſeldom or ever perceive in *their own*. Theſe curious obſervers, (mere pretenders to judgment) never condeſcend to

inveſtigate

investigate causes or effects, farther than as at first sight they affect the superficies of their very shallow comprehension; from whence arises the prevalent reflection upon the *want of bone*, so exceedingly common and so frequently *ill-founded*, that at the time of examination, the subject so disparaged is sometimes loaded like a cart horse. From this total ignorance of the anatomical conformation, has originated the erroneous conjecture of fixing the basis of strength in the boney structure *only*, without a contingent reference or relative consideration to the muscular appendages, that, in fact, constitute the very main spring of strength and action.

We are not at all disinclined to admit that the greater the fulcrum or mechanical centre of support, the more powerful should be the component parts to constitute the accumulation of strength; though this, like many other rules supposed to be general, is liable to frequent exception. Of this there are distinct proofs among the different degrees of horses, in the particular purposes for which they are bred, or afterwards become appro-

appropriate to; for inſtance, horſes bred with ſtrength for *draft*, or with ſpeed for the *chace*, are ſo directly oppoſite in ſome part of their *ſhape*, and the whole of their *requiſites*, that what conſtitutes perfections for the one, diſplays an abſolute deficiency for the other.

Hence ariſes the inconſiſtency of bringing croſs-bred heavy horſes into the chace, where their own weight, and want of action, lay the foundation of their deficiency; for in hard or long running they become inevitably exhauſted, and frequently fall victims to the imprudent perſeverance of their riders. Thoſe juvenile or inattentive ſportſmen, whoſe experience has been exceedingly limited, or obſervations confined, may not yet be perfectly convinced that BLOOD HORSES (notwithſtanding the popular clamour of their deficiency in bone) will exceed in *ſpeed*, *ſtrength*, and *bottom*, whatever horſes of an oppoſite deſcription may be brought into the field; and of this fact I am ſo exceedingly well convinced by experimental obſervation and unremitting attention, that in a long chace

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with fleet hounds, running *breaſt high*, and *acroſs a country*, nothing but horſes three parts or thorough bred can ever lay by the ſide of them.

In addition alſo to this truth, let us encounter the full force of another notion equally ridiculous, and well calculated for thoſe who hunt in *theory*, and enjoy the chace upon *paper*; of "a blood horſe not having bone and ſtrength ſufficient to cover *a deep* and *dirty country*;" when every ſportſman of experience, who has made the trial impartially, will join with me in the aſſertion, that horſes of that deſcription abſolutely poſſeſs the ſtrength (in their great power of action and pliability) to paſs over ſuch country, with very ſlight impreſſion and no great labour; when it is a matter not to be controverted, that a ſtrong heavy horſe, not only ſinks deep with his own weight at every ſtroke, but extricates himſelf with the utmoſt difficulty, leaving his rider in the pleaſing predicament of ſoon enquiring "which way the hounds are gone?" with the greater gratification of poſſeſſing a horſe of *bone and*

ſtrength

ſtrength ſufficient to carry him "AFTER *any pack of hounds in the kingdom.*" Having before bid adieu to medical myſtery and anatomical deſcription, we do not mean to renew the ſubject, by a comparative detail of muſcles and tendons, with their appertaining conſiderations; but leave every reader to make up his own mind upon the qualifications and kind of horſe moſt applicable to his idea of the chace, and intention of riding with or *after* the hounds; proceeding to a communication of ſuch remarks as, properly attended to, may be productive of their different degrees of utility.

It may be remembered that the different ſubjects of PHYSIC, EXERCISE, and CONDITION have all been ſeparately conſidered, and their advantages accurately explained; as may be perceived by application to the index of either volume for information upon any particular head. We now conſequently arrive at the commencement of the hunting ſeaſon, when meeting in the field every countenance betrays a heart elate with the general effuſion of joy that is to enſue. Previous to farther animadverſion upon which,

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it becomes neceſſary to remark, that the extreme degree of perfection, and high condition I have hitherto recommended, and allude to in my future inſtructions for ſtable management, are by no means intended to be generally extended to horſes in common uſe with HARRIERS; whoſe offices of ſervice are ſo exceedingly different to the very ſtrong and ſevere chaces with STAG or FOX, that they may naturally be underſtood to be always ſufficiently prepared with a very inferior treatment.

Leſt ſuch gentlemen, who from ſituation, inclination, advanced age, or bodily debilitation, are attached to the frigidity of HARE HUNTING, ſhould feel the dignity of *their pack*, and the *ſplendor of their retinue*, degraded by what they may erroneouſly conceive an oblique inſinuation of contempt; I muſt beg to ſubmit to the criterion of their own deciſion, the almoſt incredible difference between the exertions and duration of the two. Horſes that become the neceſſary appendage to *harriers*, undergo ſuch ſudden changes in their ſport, not more in the frequent dull and tedious attendance upon the hounds when

when trailing to find in the cold and chilling dreary fog of a ſevere winter's morning; than the alternate contraſts in the chace, ariſing from thoſe checks in "*heading, turning, doubling*, and *ſquatting*," that conſtitute firſt a burſt to promote perſpiration, then a "*fault*" to ſuppreſs it."

This is ſo very oppoſite to the violent and continued exertions of a chace with either STAG or FOX, in the preſent improved breed and fleetneſs of hounds; that I only mean to convey an idea of the probable hazard of having a horſe kept in too high a ſtile for a chace ſo ſubject to fluctuation in the different degrees of *heat* and *cold*, that a horſe in perfect condition muſt have great good fortune, or an excellent conſtitution, not to feel the ill effects of long attendance upon HARRIERS, at leaſt in thoſe countries where the ſcarcity of game admits of much loſt time between *killing* and *finding*. For my own part, however repugnant the opinion may prove to one claſs of ſportſmen; I feel myſelf juſtified in declaring, no conſideration whatever ſhould influence me to dance attendance upon harriers,

riers, with a horſe of great value and tolerable perfection, unleſs a certainty of expeditiouſly finding, and inceſſant running, might induce me to *exerciſe a horſe* on the intermediate days, as a prelude to the chace with either of the other two.

Conſidering, therefore, the management we allude to, as appertaining more particularly to horſes of high qualifications, we advert, as before mentioned, to the commencement of the ſeaſon; when, at the place of meeting, every Sportſman feels eager for the ſport and replete with emulation. That we may omit no inſtruction or advice, however minute, that can at all contribute to the pleaſure or ſafety of the chace; let it be held in remembrance, the frame (or rather the ſtomach) ſhould never be loaded when entering into immediate action. The portions of hay and water ſhould be adminiſtered with a very ſparing hand, for the laſt twelve or ſixteen hours preceding the chace; to which end hay ſhould be reſtricted in quantity more on that night than any other, his evening and morning feeds of corn being increaſed in

 propor-

proportion to the deficiency in the other part of his aliment. On the morning of hunting he ſhould be dreſſed and fed early; having his head ſtrapped up till ſaddled for the field, to prevent (if a coarſe feeding horſe) his making the clean ſtraw a neceſſary ſubſtitute for the artificial ſcarcity of hay.

The day preceding which, every judicious or experienced Sportſman arranges all his affairs, to prevent the leaſt probability of delay, diſappointment, or interruption to his ſport; by accurately aſcertaining the adequate ſtate of his horſe and the ſafety of his apparatus. He deſcends to an attentive ſurvey of the feet and the *clinches* of the *ſhoes*; thereby avoiding the diſtreſſing dilemma of compulſively exploring a SMITH'S SHOP, in a ſtrange country, during the heat and happineſs of the *chace*, by the inexpreſſible mortification of *caſting a ſhoe*: A circumſtance that will ſeldom or never happen under the occaſional inſpection of the ſmith, who will moſt certainly never forget the PROPER or accuſtomed time of examination; provided he is retained upon the principle of *mutual convenience*,

nience, ſo particularly explained in 138 and the following pages.

Proper attention ſhould follow to the form of the ſaddle and the ſtate of its ſtuffing, to prevent even the poſſibility of the tree coming into injurious contact with the *wither*; or the probability of *warbles*, by the indentation or friction of the girth buckles, in a long or ſevere chace. The girth web for hunting ſhould be what is termed "ſpring web" in preference, for the advantage of its additional elaſticity; the harſh, tight wove web, very frequently occaſioning a laceration of the integument, known by the name of "*bowel galled.*" If due reſpect was alſo paid to the probable durability of the *ſtirrup leathers*, it might certainly render ſuperfluous the paltry diſplay of a NEW BELT round the body of A GENTLEMAN, indicating a ſafe reſource for a *broken leather*; a piece of equeſtrian oſtentation never practiſed by Sportſmen of eſtabliſhed reputation, who are univerſally known to be too ſubſtantially provided, in ſo material a part of their equipments, to ſtand the moſt diſtant chance of an accident, that would not only retard their

 progreſs,

progreſs, but inevitably *throw them out*, before they could repair their loſs, if the hounds were then croſſing a country.

If horſes have not ſix or eight miles to the hounds on the morning of hunting, they ſhould be walked at leaſt an hour, or hour and half, before they appear at the place of meeting; the conſiſtency of their having ſufficient time to unload the frame by frequency of evacuation, has been ſo fully explained under the article of exerciſe, and its palpable utility muſt be ſo forcibly ſtriking to every perſon at all convinced of its effects, that it cannot poſſibly require any additional elucidation.

Suppoſing ourſelves arrived at that unſullied ſeat of unanimity the place appointed, whether throwing into covert for a FOX, or turning out the DEER; every Sportſman will acknowledge it may be juſtly deemed the critical moment, when the powers of exhilaration nearly exceed the limits of preſcription, and we "moſt wonder how our reaſon holds." This is the criſis that too frequently deprives the juvenile rider (in his

his initiation) of the degree of prudence so exceedingly necessary in the early part of the chace; particularly at the beginning of the season, when they are so little inured to exertions of violence and fatigue. The *first burst*, with either DEER or FOX, is generally severe, and not unfrequently of long duration, in which too much tenderness cannot be bestowed upon the very fountain-head of your pleasure; from whose perfections and perseverance only, you can derive your enjoyment of the chace. It is therefore perfectly right to have it ever in remembrance, that the more moderately a horse is exerted in the early part of the day, the greater probability you insure of seeing the end of it; with the pleasing consolation of ease to your horse, and no bad compliment to your own reputation; for it is a well known fact, that there are hundreds in a season, who from an impatient desire and eager impetuosity to see too much of the *beginning*, seldom or never know much of the *conclusion*, promoting by indiscretion the very means of their mortification and disgrace.

Moderation in the chace, and ſteady attention to the leading hounds, will conſtantly prevent conſiderable difficulty to the rider, as well as the horſe: This is a matter, however, more "devoutly to be wiſhed," than at all to be expected. It is equally natural to conclude, that moſt of thoſe adherents attached to and enjoying the chace, would regulate the *ſpeed* of their horſes by the depth of the ground they go over; obſervation daily convinces us it is not ſo; and that there are very numerous exceptions to ſuch neceſſary and laudable circumſpection.

Experience conſtantly affords us demonſtrative proof, that nothing ſo much exhauſts the bodily ſtrength, reduces the ſpeed, and exhauſts the wind, as ſtrong and repeated leaps *in any*, but particularly *in deep countries*: This reflection ought ſurely to convince young or unthinking riders, that ſuperfluous leaps, and unneceſſary difficulties, ſhould never be boaſtingly encountered, to diſplay an affectation of equeſtrian courage, or pragmatic conſequence; for they immediately (in the mind of every prudent

dent and humane obſerver) appear ſo many incontrovertible proofs of his ignorance or indiſcretion. Theſe HEROES ON HORSEBACK require to be emphatically informed, that ſuch voluntary acts of oppreſſion invariably operate to the prejudice of the performer, however he may be ſanctioned by ſituation or favoured by fortune, proving unluckily abortive of the original deſign; for what is ſo evidently intended to create admiration, is as certainly productive of indifference and contempt.

Another act of folly and indiſcretion is equally calculated to excite the diſguſt and indignation of every eſtabliſhed Sportſman in the field; that ridiculous vanity of trying the ſpeed and oppreſſing the ſpirit of your horſe, in *racing* with every ſympathetic competitor; and it would be very extraordinary in ſo numerous a company, if *one fool* was long deprived the pleaſure of finding *a companion*. At the concluſion of the chace, whether the death of a FOX or the taking of the DEER, numerous temptations preſent themſelves to the young and inexperienced Sportſman, even in the

infancy of his initiation; while encountering the various propositions of the company, ſuſpended in opinion between the prevalence of inclination and power of conſiſtency.

Previous to the remarks I proceed to make, it is not inapplicable to introduce one obſervation relative to a termination of the diſtinct chaces I have juſt had occaſion to mention; for though the former muſt be candidly acknowledged proportionally ſevere in its courſe, it is by no means comparative in its duration. HIS MAJESTY's *Red Deer*, under the acknowledged excellence of their preſent eſtabliſhment, exceed in the length of their runs all former remembrance, and almoſt every conception of thoſe unacquainted with the ſubject; from *three* to *four* hours may be candidly conſidered the average of each chace, with deer in high condition; at the concluſion of which, it is no uncommon circumſtance to be *twenty*, *five and twenty*, or *thirty* miles from home, or the place of turning out.

This is the period when every imprudent or impatient rider ſhould exert his judgment to diſcover the ſtate of his horſe and regulate his

his proceedings accordingly; horſes are never ſo perfectly at eaſe as in their *own ſtables*, which they ſhould attain with all poſſible convenience. There are numbers who (without at all adverting to the length of the chace, or their diſtance from home,) may be conſtantly obſerved eagerly enquiring the *neareſt way* to the firſt houſe of public accommodation, making what converts they can by example; where, without a reference to contingencies, horſes in ſuch ſtate are raſhly conſigned to the *unſullied care* and *inceſſant attention* of the IMMACULATE OSTLER, (if the premiſes are enabled to produce one) when they are *ordered* to be "well cleaned," "properly fed," and "ſufficiently watered." This important truſt (for ſuch it certainly is when thoroughly inveſtigated) is thus delegated to an inferior power, that is perhaps in five minutes unavoidably compelled to abandon it, and accept of a *ſecond* or *third*, which may be no more in his power to execute. Thus the commiſſion is going on, while the *happy inadvertent* owners are gratifying their appetites and drowning their cares in all the luxuries of the manſion; indulging their vanity in a recital of their perſonal exploits,

ploits, and an alternate deſcription of the difficulties they had ſurmounted in the ſeverities of the chace.

To thoſe in the laudable habits of a different practice, animadverſion upon the danger becomes ſuperfluous; but as there are thoſe, who it is impoſſible to convince of their errors, till repentance comes too late, it may prove no unſeaſonable admonition to declare, from this kind of treatment only, I have been a witneſs to *repeated inſtances*, where the horſes have never been brought again out of the ſtable, but in woeful proceſſion to the *Collar Makers*, who had purchaſed their hides.

The ſtripping of a horſe to dreſs him in a comfortleſs ſtable, with every pore of the frame relaxed to its utmoſt extenſion, and the additional *happy introduction* of a pail of COLD WATER (as moſt applicable to the convenience of the *oſtler* or his *deputy*) has been the deſtruction of more horſes in different ways, than ever ſuffered by the longeſt and moſt terrible runs when rode with diſcretion. So much has been repeatedly introduced

troduced upon the repulſion of perſpirative matter, from the ſurface to the different parts of the frame, that not a ſingle line can be required in elucidation of ſo clear a part of the ſubject.

Steady and attentive obſervance has, years ſince, convinced me of the inconſiſtency of approaching a houſe of this kind in the general hurry and confuſion, with any hope of obtaining the requiſite attendance your horſe may prove in need of; a diffident applicant may ſtand his hour unnoticed, and his gentle requeſts unanſwered, while thoſe fortunately poſſeſſed of unbounded confidence and faſhionable effrontery may probably ſucceed in their applications. It is therefore much more commendable to paſs gently on with your horſe to a houſe whoſe preſent engagements are not ſo numerous, which may generally be found in a few miles of your way homeward; here you become ſo much the object of attention, that you almoſt obtain in anticipation what you could not before acquire by the moſt humble entreaty. This anſwers your purpoſe perhaps in another reſpect, as your horſe will have become cool and proper for what attention

attention you find it neceſſary to beſtow; for no horſe whatever, after a ſevere run, ſhould be placed in a ſtable, or ſuffered to ſtand ſtill, till the encreaſed velocity of the blood and the conſequent perſpiration had gradually ſubſided to its former temperance.

When your place of temporary convenience is obtained, let it only be thirty or forty minutes at moſt, for the following purpoſes of evacuation and nutrition: See that the ſtable and the ſtall in that ſtable are made as near the warmth of your own as circumſtances will permit; let the bridle be taken off, a handful of ſweet hay thrown before him, the girths ſlackened, and the ſaddle *juſt looſened* only from the back, to which it may adhere cloſely by the long continued perſpiration; let a ſheet (or ſuch ſubſtitute as the place affords) be thrown over his hind quarters, and the litter be plentifully ſpread under his belly, to excite a ſalutary diſcharge of urine, (by this time much wanted) obſerving that he ſtales without difficulty, and diſplays no ſigns of ſtrangury; if ſo, they muſt be attended to in the manner deſcribed in the former volume, ſhould nature be tardy in her

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own relief and the violence of ſymptoms increaſe.

Procraſtinate any wants of YOUR OWN, and make up the deficiencies of the *day* in the extra comforts of the *evening*; this will inſure you the exquiſite ſenſation ariſing from an act of juſtice and humanity. Depend upon no pompous inſtructions for the doubtful ſupply of *warm water* neceſſary to your purpoſe or intention; diveſt yourſelf of the rank folly of falſe conſequence, and attend to the *immediate procuration*; examine its proper warmth, and be yourſelf the truſty ſuperintendant, unleſs the favours of fortune and the fidelity of your ſervant have luckily placed you above the neceſſity of perſonal attendance. So ſoon as he has *ſtaled*, let his head be well rubbed with part of a ſoft hay band, and thoroughly cleanſed with the bruſh; draw his ears repeatedly through the hands, all which will prove perfectly refreſhing. The legs ſhould be alſo well rubbed down with double whiſps, to prevent an obſtruction of the pores, or ſtiffneſs from accumulated dirt and perſpiration.

This

This done, let a moderate feed of the beſt corn your *local granary* affords, be thrown into the manger, and the door of the ſtable immediately cloſed. Having thus conſcientiouſly diſcharged the incumbent office of grateful protection; embrace the few minutes you have to ſpare in obtaining for yourſelf, what little refreſhment nature ſtands in need of. Let no inducement whatever from more unthinking companions, attract your attention from the ſtate of your horſe to the circulation of the bottle; if once you ſuffer your ſober judgment to relax from what ſhould be the invariable maxim of your perſeverance, you know not where the indiſcretion ends; one ſingle ſtep of deviation from the line of prudence and propriety, frequently introduces a thouſand more to promote contrition.

Upon ample demonſtration, that every horſe, ſupported in a domeſtic ſtile, has as fervent an attachment to his own ſtall as his maſter to his own bed, and will moſt chearfully encounter (if neceſſary) much additional fatigue to attain it; there is no doubt but it is highly commendable to bridle him

ſo

ſo ſoon as his corn is finiſhed, and take him gently home, provided the diſtance is not *too great*, to prevent a comfort ſo truly deſirable to both the horſe and his rider. In this recommendation I feel myſelf perfectly juſtified, not only upon the experimental advantage of frequently taking my horſe (in the way I have deſcribed) upwards of twenty miles to his own ſtall, which has been my invariable practice for more than twenty years, but the flattering gratification to obſerve many of my friends as regularly follow the example.

No infectious ſolicitations, that ſo conſtantly ſeduce others to an *immediate* participation of *table comforts*, ever have the moſt trifling weight in the ſcale of MY DETERMINATION; dedicated entirely to the ſafety of my horſe, no moment is unneceſſarily waſted till he is "rewarded according to his deſerts," and ſafely lodged in his own ſtable, beyond the probable reach of danger; where, upon his arrival, (whether after a long or ſhort return from either a ſevere or moderate chace) the mode of management is critically the ſame; his legs and feet are not only inſtantly

only inſtantly waſhed with warm water, but in ſo doing, the neceſſary inſpection made, whether the moſt trifling injuries have been ſuſtained by over-reaches, ſtubs, or in lacerations between hair and hoof; while this is doing, a portion of hay is thrown before him, and immediately after a pail of water, ſlightly warm, to allay the violent thirſt always occaſioned by long and ſevere chaces. The uſual ceremony of dreſſing, feeding, oiling, ſtopping, and other minutiæ of the ſtable is then gone through; too ſyſtematically and generally underſtood to require a ſingle line in explanation.

A perſeverance in this rigidity of ſtable diſcipline and attention, unbiaſſed by the perſuaſion or example of others, will always inſure you the ſuperiority of *condition* in the field; under the pleaſing ſenſation of your horſe being at home, and completely taken care of; when others, leſs conſiderate, or leſs humane, are commencing a wretched journey of ten, fifteen, or twenty miles in a dreary winter's evening; or what is nearly upon a parallel of inconſiſtency, permit them to remain in a ſtrange

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(and perhaps cold and uncomfortable) ſtable, to be badly fed and worſe looked after. But let it be either *one* or the *other*, reſulting conſequences are much the ſame; the porous ſyſtem is affected in a greater or leſs degree, the coat becomes rough, and unhealthy, bearing the appearance of HIDE-BOUND, and the perſpirative matter thus compulſively returned upon the circulation without abſorption, muſt evidently ſoon appear to affect the eyes, lungs, or glandular parts; to the certain hazard of *blindneſs*, *aſthma*, *broken wind*, or ſome one of the contingent ills ſo repeatedly alluded to in various parts of this, as well as our former volume.

Reſpecting the article of FEEDING, various opinions are entertained, and perhaps no ſmall number of thoſe regulated by pecuniary conſiderations; it is, however, univerſally admitted, that HUNTERS require a more extraordinary ſupport than many horſes of different denominations; but the particular reaſon why *extra ſupport* becomes ſo immediately neceſſary, is a matter but little underſtood by thoſe not

much ſubject to abſtruſe reaſoning or remote conviction.

It has been repeatedly proved under the article of EXERCISE and its effects, that a want of action (when properly ſupplied with food) overloads not only the frame with aliment, but the circulation with a ſuperflux of nutrition; it muſt therefore evidently appear, by parity of reaſoning, that great and conſtant exertions in the chace muſt neceſſarily exhauſt the fluids by perſpiration, as the contents of the inteſtines by evacuation; and unleſs the ſyſtem is ſufficiently ſupplied with nutritious, reſtorative, and healthy aliment (the beſt in its kind) for the due ſupport of theſe frequent diſcharges, impoveriſhed blood, loſs of fleſh, dejected ſpirit, and bodily debilitation muſt prove the inevitable conſequence.

After the moſt attentive obſervation, I have been able to beſtow for a number of years, cultivating an anxious deſire to diſcover the proper criterion of ſupport and gratification for horſes of this deſcription, who are

are fair feeders, and do their work well; I could never find that a leſs portion than ſeven pecks or two buſhels of corn, and two truſs (one hundred weight) of hay, per week, would keep them up to a proper degree of ſtrength and appearance. This is the leaſt quantity of either, that any horſe of my own conſumes in the hunting ſeaſon; which allowance will conſtitute ſome entertainment, in contraſt with the weekly ſubſiſtence of thoſe metropolitan ſtables, ſo particularly alluded to in page 199 of the work before us. In this calculation, the reader muſt be informed, there is no conditional reference or alluſion to horſes of *weak appetites*, that are off their food with every trifling exertion, or extra fatigue; they are by no means entitled to a ſtall in the ſtable of an experienced ſportſman, who, when ſuch accidentally fall into his poſſeſſion, will undoubtedly ſoon extricate himſelf from the incumbrance without the leaſt neceſſity for my recommendation.

WATER is ſo equally and eſſentially requiſite to the very exiſtence of life, and performance of every function, that it be-

comes entitled to a proper degree of consideration; but knowing (from the very nature of the enquiry) how little attention would be paid to a tedious and desultory diffusion of matter, upon the different kinds of water, their properties, the mineral particles they contain, the distinct strata through which they run and become impregnated as they pass, with their *probable* or *possible* effects upon the constitutions of horses, would lead us again into a very extensive and unentertaining field of physical disquisition, that we wish by no means to renew, unless it could tend to enlighten the subject or improve the judgment. In an attempt to succeed effectually in either, BRACKEN must be eventually cited to justify one assertion, CLARKE to demonstrate another; the sum total of all which, could amount only to an accumulation of conjecture respecting *stone*, *gravel*, and *strangury*, without any thing being positively ascertained, by a catalogue of conditional suppositions, founded upon the various properties of different waters, according to the soils through which

which they run, or from whence they are extracted.

In fact, ſuch accurate inveſtigation has been made by Mr. CLARKE of this ſubject, that it abſolutely precludes every poſſibility of introducing a ſingle line in addition, without the appearance of plagiariſm; but with due deference to his good intent, and true phyſical diſtinction, I cannot but conceive, that ſo general a deſcription of the different kinds of water will afford but little ſatisfaction to thoſe who are inevitably compelled to abide by the local properties of their own country, without the bare poſſibility of an alternative.

Taking this circumſtance into conſideration, I think it can be only neceſſary to take up the ſubject; upon a general ground; merely to introduce ſuch few remarks upon the quantity and quality of water, as is evidently moſt applicable to the *ſtate*, *condition*, and *purpoſe* of thoſe horſes whoſe ſituation, circumſtances, or fluctuations of

weather, render their watering in the ſtable a buſineſs totally unavoidable.

I have, in different parts of my former volume, ſaid what then became applicable upon this ſubject; but we now proceed a few ſteps farther, in elucidation of any deficiency; and the more particularly as our remarks conſtitute a link of continuity to the preſent chain of inſtruction. It can never have eſcaped the attention of the moſt ſuperficial obſerver, what a wonderful change is almoſt inſtantaneouſly produced in the appearance and ſenſations of a horſe, by a gratification of thirſt in *well* or *pump* water, but more particularly if given in the ſtable cold and in the winter ſeaſon. In moſt horſes a violent ſhivering and ſtaring of the coat immediately ſucceeds, and continues more or leſs without intermiſſion; thoſe conſtantly ſupplied in this manner having always a coat nearly of two colours, (that is, one half ſtanding on end, and the other part ſmooth) diſplaying a ſcurfy duſty hue at the bottom, evidently the effect of a repeated collapſion of the porous ſyſtem and frequent obſtruction of inſenſible perſpiration.

To

To prevent, by every poſſible means, the hazard of ſuch inconvenience as muſt evidently enſue from treatment ſo highly improper; horſes ſhould invariably, when the ſeaſons and the ſtate of thoſe ſeaſons will permit, be watered abroad at either *pond* or *pool* of ſoft and well ſheltered water; as greatly preferable to the harſh and chilling frigidity of thoſe we have deſcribed. But even in this mode, a horſe ſhould never be permitted to glut himſelf to the leaſt degree of ſatiety; for having no regulator but appetite, no guide but inclination, they very frequently (under management of the inadvertent and inconſiderate) drink to an exceſs occaſioning the moſt excruciating pain, and no trifling degree of danger and diſquietude. Six or ſeven quarts need never be exceeded to horſes of this claſs at one time, and that as regularly divided in reſpect to the *equal arrangement of time* as circumſtances will permit; to be repeated twice in twenty-four hours, at nearly the diſtance of *twelve* from each other, to avoid the frequent folly of having water *twice* in about *eight* hours, remaining SIXTEEN without.

When the ſeverity of the weather, as *rain*, *froſt*, or *ſnow*, prevents horſes of this deſcription from being watered in ſuch way; the only prudent alternative (to avoid every inconvenience) is to furniſh them *with ſoft water* from ſuch receptacles in the ſtable, either in its natural ſtate, or with the chill taken off, as the ſeaſon and circumſtances may require; letting the ſubject almoſt immediately undergo a briſk bruſhing over for a quarter of an hour or more, to enliven the circulation and prevent the diſagreeable ſenſations of rigor, and effect of obſtructed perſpiration.

It now becomes neceſſary we revert once more to the ſubject of EXERCISE; upon the utility of which, we have already enlarged, under its dictinct head, and from its numerous advantages and indiſpenſible neceſſity, cannot, in fact, be afraid of introducing too much; it is the very fountain of health, appetite, and invigoration, without which, a horſe can never be adequate to the purpoſe intended. Proper exerciſe for horſes, denominated HUNTERS, and appropriated to no other uſe, ſhould be

be almoſt *invariable* reſpecting manner, length of time and diſtance; though it muſt be univerſally known ſuch circumſtance becomes greatly dependent upon the ſeaſon of the year, the ſtate of the weather, the ſeverity of the preceding chace, and the condition of the horſe.

Under ſuch certain and unavoidable fluctuation, conditional inſtructions only can be admitted; ſubject as they muſt ever remain to the contingencies of inevitable diverſification. Horſes on the intervening days, during the *firſt* and *laſt* weeks of each ſeaſon, when the days are long and ſeaſons mild, ſhould be taken out twice a day; for inſtance, from eight to nine in the morning, and from four to five in the afternoon; giving them their proper portion of water at ſuch *pond* or *pool* of ſoft water as is moſt remarkable for its ſalubrious properties in the neighbourhood of reſidence. Let the exerciſe be moderate, and equally divided before and after the water; remembering, as already obſerved, to regulate the *length* and *ſtrength* of the exerciſe by the CONDITION of the horſe.

If

If he is of high ſpirit, and ſo much *above his work*, that he encreaſes in fleſh, indicating the leaſt diſplay of foulneſs from repletion, let his exerciſe be proportionally extended; on the contrary, if the ſubject is of ſlender conſtitution, lax habit, light in the carcaſe, and weak appetite, the digeſtive powers muſt be conſequently deficient, and proceedings regulated accordingly; becoming entirely dependent upon circumſtances and judicious ſuper-intendance.

In what I term the four centrical months of the hunting ſeaſon, when the days are exceedingly ſhort, and the weather ſevere; the mode of exerciſe muſt be varied, and rendered ſubſervient to the changes that occur; taking them out at ſuch times as may be found moſt convenient under difficulties that frequently ariſe. The rule, however, beſt adapted to general practice in favourable weather, is to let them have their exerciſe at once, and that in the middle of the day, between or from the hours of *eleven* to *one*; equally avoiding the chilling fogs of the morning, and damps of the evening: having it always in remembrance,

membrance, that when prevented (by the continuance of inceſſant rain, or deep fall of ſnow upon the ground) from taking them out at all, their dreſſings are increaſed, and patiently perſevered in, to enliven the circulation, promote the ſecretions and evacuations, as the only ſubſtitute for the more ſubſtantial advantage of regular exercife.

It is a caſe too frequently obſerved, and indeed almoſt generally known, that the horſes of Gentlemen are ſometimes unluckily ſubject, *in all weathers*, to a part of their exerciſe at the door of *an obſcure alehouſe*; for however hoſpitable may be the manſion of the maſter, ſtill the prevalence of "DAMNED CUSTOM," has rendered it ſo predominant, it is in a certain degree faſhionable with thoſe *faithful and truſty* ſervants, who, poſſeſſing neither innate principle, or perſonal gratitude, render the moſt valuable property of their employers dangerouſly ſubſervient to the paltry inconſiſtency and gratification of their own inclinations.

Having

Having omitted, upon the ſubject of diſeaſed eyes, to introduce a matter of opinion that ſhould have appeared with more propriety under the article of "SHOEING," and frequent ill uſuage of SMITHS; I am induced to ſubmit it to conſideration before I take leave of the ſubject before us. It is what I have ever thought a too unjuſtifiable and great exertion of ſtrength, in the uſe and twiſt of *the twitch*, when a horſe is put into that excruciating ſtate of coercion for ſhoeing, or any other operation. In this extremity of pain and humiliation, the eyes are frequently obſerved agitated, even to the expulſion of tears, from the great irritability, and greater ſtimulation of the nervous ſyſtem; this is ſo ſeldom regulated by the ſalutary interpoſition of *judgment*, *humanity*, and *diſcretion*, that I ſhall ever retain doubts, from the obſervations I have made, whether various defects in the eyes, or a paralytic ſtate of the optic nerves, may not be very commonly produced by ſuch means, when attributed to more remote cauſes.

ROAD HORSES

ARE thoſe in general performing the moſt laborious work, and many of them enjoying the leaſt accurate attention of any in the kingdom. It is in fact matter of ſurpriſe, that a part of the ſpecies conſtituting the very baſis and ſupport of inland commerce, the only means of expeditious travelling, and the advantages of general convenience in buſineſs and pleaſure, ſhould be ſo cruelly neglected, or indifferently treated, as may be plainly perceived (without the eyes of Argus) in almoſt every *inn* and a variety of *private ſtables* in every part of England.

Under this deſcription come by much the greater part of all the horſes in conſtant uſe; as it includes carriage horſes of every kind, roadſters and hacks, whether of GENTLEMEN, TRADES EN, or TRAVELLERS (commonly called riders); all which conſtitute an infinity, as well in the metropolis as every part of the country. A very great

proportion

proportion of theſe derive ſo little ſupport from the *ocular inſpection* and *perſonal care* of their riders or drivers; that if the ſecret interpoſition of Providence did not influence a greater degree of aſſiſtance in their favour, than thoſe generally do who ſhould be their protectors, more poverty and bodily deſtruction muſt inevitably enſue.

Rules for ſelecting horſes in purchaſe are ſo plainly inculcated in the early part of the former volume, that they claim no part of our preſent attention; management, with ſuch hints only as appertain to the tuition of young and inexperienced travellers, will form the ſum total of arrangement under this head. It would prove matter of aſtoniſhment, to thoſe not intimately acquainted with the general ſtate, condition, and accommodation of horſes, what labour they execute, the incredible difficulties they ſurmount, the inceſſant fatigue they patiently endure, and the little they ſubſiſt on in the hands of hundreds, who feel no paſſion but gain, no pride but inſenſibility.

The horſes paſſing under the denomination of

of ROAD HORSES are ſo exceedingly numerous of the different kinds, that a diſtinct mode of treatment for each particular ſort, would be extending the ſubject to a length beyond the wiſh and expectation of every reader. Such ſelection may therefore be made from the general advice, as the enquirer may find moſt applicable to the ſtate of his horſe and the purpoſe of his appropriation; though the inſtructions may be conſidered as more conſiſtently adapted to ſaddle and light carriage horſes, than thoſe employed in heavy machines, road waggons, and the inferior vehicles in conſtant uſe.

Previous to farther embarkation upon that part of the ſubject, it may not prove inapplicable to take an oblique ſurvey of thoſe public receptacles known by the appellation of *inns*; originally intended and admirably calculated for the convenience and accommodation of travellers, but unfortunately, like many other inſtitutions of general utility, perverted to the worſt of purpoſes; having become ſo numerous (for the advantage of their LICENCED contribution to government) that they find it convenient to practice every degree

gree of impoſition and every ſpecies of adulteration, upon the plauſible plea of ſtate neceſſity and ſelf-preſervation.

Of theſe houſes there are in fact but two diſtinct kinds, that fall within the neceſſary circumſpection and remembrance of the traveller, for they are generally in the oppoſite extreme; the accommodations of one claſs are *hoſpitable*, *generous*, *humane*, and *conſcientious*; the other, execrable to every excitement of INDIGNATION. While the former are exerting every nerve to acquire ſubſiſtence and obtain approbation, with honeſty and unſullied reputation; the latter are deriving indiſcriminate ſupport by every degree of DECEPTION without doors, and every ſpecies of PECUNIARY oppreſſion within. Servants, it is a maxim, ſoon acquire the *virtues* or *vices* of their employers, if they indulge a wiſh to retain their ſituations; and upon the the truth of that ancient adage, " birds of a feather flock together," where you find the wiſh to pleaſe predominant in the maſter or miſtreſs, you immediately obſerve ſympathetic aſſiduity in their dependents; and this remark will hold good, with *very few exceptions*,

ceptions, in almoſt every inn from Yarmouth in Norfolk, to the land's end in Cornwall.

Under this eſtabliſhed truth, it is alſo an additional fact, that while the very reſpectable claſs, whoſe integrity I applaud, and whoſe aſſiduity the public perceive and protect; are obtaining the very beſt *corn* and *hay* that can be conſumed upon the premiſes, without reſpect to the price of purchaſe; not more from a deſire to promote their hourly encreaſing reputation, than to gratify the happy ſenſation of inherent probity; the latter are conſtantly procuring the hay and corn only, that can be purchaſed at the VERY LOWEST PRICE, without a relative conſideration to *quality*, *conſcience*, or *reputation*.

Happy for the owners, much more happy for the fatigued and dejected horſes, if either poſſeſſed the good fortune or ſagacity, to diſcover the internal comforts by external appearance; nor can I conceive it would be bad policy in the very great numbers who conſtantly travel, if they were to obtain by petition to parliament *a legal injunction*, that the SIGN *without* ſhould be ſtrictly emble-

matic of the treatment *within*; and these not corresponding, should be punished with the *loss of licence* upon respectable information. As it is, influenced by the power of external purity, we enter the gates of "AN ANGEL," and in a few minutes repentantly perceive we have been induced to encounter a DEVIL. Where we are taught to expect meekness from "THE LAMB," we frequently find the ferocity of A LION. At the "head of A KING," we meet accommodations for A COBLER. At a CASTLE, the manners of A COTTAGE. At the ROSE, we are surrounded with THORNS; and at the WHITE RAVEN, we discover A ROOK.

Returning however from a slight digression to the subject in agitation, I must confess, OSTLERS are a very useful body of men individually considered; but long experience and attentive observation have rendered it an invariable rule with me, to adopt the good old maxim of "never trusting them *farther* than I can see them;" and this upon the recollection of a *false manger* having been discovered at a principal inn in the town of my nativity, in the days of juvenility; and the correspond-

ing

ing declaration of a LEGERDEMAIN ADVENTURER (at that time moſt applicably in exhibition) whoſe ſalutary caution I have ever retained, "LOOK SHARP, for if *your eyes* are not quicker than *my hands* I ſhall certainly deceive you." This is a ſpecies of deception ſo conſtantly practiſed, and ſo happily enjoyed by the performers, that I make it an invariable rule (by perſonal attendance) to ſhield myſelf from the mortifying reflection of ſo much impoſition upon my pocket or my underſtanding.

It ſhould be conſidered that ROAD HORSES of every denomination are, from their conſtant work and great utility, entitled to a proportional degree of care and attention with the moſt valuable horſes in the kingdom; for though it is by no means neceſſary (but evidently improper) they ſhould be in the ſame high ſtate of condition as horſes appropriated to the higher ſpheres of racing and hunting; yet there is a certain ſyſtematic uniformity in their mode of treatment, that regularly adhered to, will prove equally advantageous with one claſs, as the almoſt unbounded circumſpection ſo earneſtly recommended with the other.

For inſtance, very warm ſtables and a profuſion of body cloths are to be avoided, with horſes that are neceſſarily deſtined to enter a variety upon the road in conſtant travelling; encountering the extremes of *heat* and *cold*, the indifference of aliment, the various kinds of water, and different modes of treatment. Many of theſe, although not in the immediate need of ſuch large portions of NUTRIMENT as thoſe in the habit of more violent exertions; yet they are entitled to all the uſeful minutiæ of ſtable diſcipline, that ſo clearly contribute to the preſervation of health, in horſes of a ſuperior deſcription.

Horſes coming under the denomination of ROAD HORSES, or common hacks in occaſional excurſions and diurnal domeſtic employment, will ſupport themſelves in good ſtate (with moderate gentle work) upon three feeds of corn; on the contrary, horſes of every kind, in conſtant work and exertions of magnitude, (as inceſſant journeying, or travelling poſt) muſt be ſupplied, *at leaſt*, with a peck of corn a day. Large and ſtrong carriage horſes in perpetual work, will

will require conſiderably more, or become emaciated by loſs of fleſh in frequent perſpiration. Theſe rules are offered as a kind of general ſtandard; they muſt, however, remain ſubject to the conditional regulations of thoſe who become individually intereſted in the event.

There are numerous cauſes to be aſſigned, why horſes conſtantly uſed in travelling (particularly in the winter) and ſubject to all the viciſſitudes of different ſtabling upon the roads, moſtly bear the appearance of invalids, and look ſo very different from thoſe kept under a ſyſtematic and invariable mode of management in private ſtables. The degrees of deception, and various ills they have to encounter in many inns, are abſolutely incredible, to thoſe unacquainted with *the arts* in faſhionable practice; the deſtructive negligence of *Oſtlers*, the *badneſs of hay*, the *hardneſs* of *pump water*, and what is ſtill more to be lamented, the SCARCITY OF CORN, render it a matter of aſtoniſhment how they are enabled to perform journies of ſuch an amazing extent as they are perpetually deſtined to.

By way of prelude to the instructions I conceive requisite, to form the mind of every young and inexperienced traveller; it cannot be considered inapplicable to strengthen the inculcation, by a short recital of an introductory fact that not long since occurred in the neighbourhood of my present residence: Where a farmer enjoyed his moiety of land at a very easy rent, under an excellent landlord, and no immoderate oppression from parochial taxes; and though he was universally known to be an honest industrious man, yet *repeated harvests* produced nothing but additional deficiencies; in short, circumstances became annually more and more contracted, till DIRE NECESSITY compelled him to relinquish both land and habitation, without having it in his power to accuse Providence of SEVERITY, or himself of NEGLECT.

He was soon succeeded, at an advanced rent, by a man who was equally honest, sober, and industrious with himself; who continued plodding on under the happy consolation of finding every harvest produce additional gain and accumulation of profit.

As

AS FAME is ſeldom erroneous *in this particular*, his predeceſſor hearing of his ſucceſs, under a conſiderable advance of rent; took the liberty of calling upon him, with a blunt but honeſt apology "for aſking ſo impertinent a queſtion; but it was, to be informed how he, who had the farm at a much eaſier rent, could not even pay that rent and ſubſiſt his family with all his care and œconomy; while his ſucceſſor was not only evidently doing this, but daily increaſing his ſtock from the ſuperflux?" When the other replied, that the whole art of his ſucceſs and improvement of the premiſes, conſiſted in nothing more than an invariable adherence to *two words* and their conſequence; that when his predeceſſor held the farm, a too implicit confidence in and reliance upon his ſervants led him into unexpected and INVISIBLE loſſes. You, ſays he, always *ordered* your dependents to "Go" and do *this*, *that*, or the *other*; my plan is the very ſame as yours in every other reſpect but this; from the firſt hour of my coming into the farm it has been my conſtant maxim to ſay, "LET'S GO;" the *effect* of which has evidently occaſioned the very

wide difference between *your* circumſtances and *mine*.

There certainly can be no doubt but the farmer's excellent maxim ſhould be adopted by all thoſe who rely too much upon the affected diligence of *oſtlers*, and pretended fidelity of *ſervants*; without a ſingle conſiſtent reflection upon the cauſe of their approaching every day nearer to poverty. For my own part, I am not at all aſhamed to acknowledge, if my horſes are in higher condition as to external appearance, ſtronger in the CHACE, or more reſpectable upon the ROAD than my neighbours, it is only to be attributed to the admirable admonition of "LET'S GO," under which incredible advantage of *perſonal ſuperintendance* I become ſecurity for the certain execution of my OWN ORDERS.

This to the inattentive or inconſiderate, may ſavor too ſtrong of rigidity, and ſeem ſtriking too much at the characters of ſervants in general; however, the more prudent and diſcriminating will know in what degree to admit the exception, concluding there may be ſome entitled to a

proper

proper extension of confidence; though taken in the aggregate, the proportion is so exceedingly inferior, that *well bought* EXPERIENCE amply justifies me in the opinion, that the greater number of dependents there are retained in any one family, (however small the scale, or extensive the establishment,) the more the employer becomes the hourly prey of plunder and imposition.

Habituated to a belief of this fact, which it is beyond the power of either argument or sophistry to disprove; I have long held in retention two excellent maxims (originally from high authority) that constitute a useful TRIO, in conjunction with the emphatical PRECEPT of the farmer. That of "never putting off till *to-morrow* what can be done *to day*;" or, "letting *another* do for you, what you can do for *yourself*." These rules conditionally adhered to, as much as circumstances, situation, and relative considerations will admit; would, I believe, have saved from ruin, THOUSANDS who have been depredated by the villainy of servants, and now lament,

lament, in the moſt diſtreſſing indigence, their former inadvertency.

These admonitions are introduced merely as a mirror worthy the accurate inſpection and remembrance of thoſe inconſiſtent beings, who, diſmounting at the different inns upon a journey, give their conſequential inſtructions to an oſtler, or perhaps a *ſtable boy*, and never condeſcend even to *to look* upon the poor animal again, till neceſſarily produced for the continuance of his journey, at the end of twelve, twenty-four, or eight and forty hours. This almoſt incredible inſenſibility and ſelf-importance, brings to memory the pompoſity of a medical ſtudent freſh from the trammels of hoſpital attendance, and lectures upon OSTEOLOGY; whoſe head was ſo replete with anatomical phraſeology, that his mouth was never permitted to open but in a diſplay of profeſſional ability. For riding into one of the principal inns, in the firſt town in the county, and alighting from a poney of ſmall dimenſions; he vociferouſly reiterated the appellation of "OSTLER!" "SIR!" "diveſt my horſe of his *integuments!*"

Of

Of the ſelf-ſame dignity was poor WIGNELL, an inferior actor, but "*ſtock King*," of Covent Garden Theatre for many years; whoſe ſtage conſequence became ſo habitual to him, he could never be diveſted of it in the moſt trifling occurrences of common life. At the concluſion of the winter ſeaſon, when making his itinerant excurſion to join a company in the country for the ſummer; he diſmounted at an inn upon the road, and *ordering* proper proportions of corn and water for the BUCEPHALUS on which he rode, enjoyed himſelf moſt luxuriouſly upon the beſt to be produced. When ſatiate with good living, he depoſited his pecuniary compenſation, and ſallying forth, exclaimed moſt theatrically for the "OSTLER;" who appearing, the gueſt approached him with his whip clenched in his hand (in the manner of a truncheon, like the Ghoſt in Hamlet,) ſtill continuing to call upon the "OSTLER." The oſtler recovering from the firſt ſurpriſe, ventured, after ſome trifling heſitation, to anſwer, but with *doubt* and *diſmay*, "SIR!" "When my *ſteed* has put a *period* to his *provender*, produce him."

This

This was a thunder ſtroke to a man little read in *ſcripture*, and a ſtranger to *heroics*, particularly when accompanied with tragic EMPHASIS and ELOCUTION. John not knowing, and not being able to divine the meaning of this majeſtic injunction, ſcratched his head, and tremblingly re-echoed, "SI, SI,R!" "When my *ſteed* has put a *period* to his *provender*, produce him." "Upon my ſoul, Sir, I don't know what you mean!" "Why you ſcoundrel! when my horſe has *eat his corn*, bring him out of the ſtable." Whether he had really been put in poſſeſſion of *any corn at all*, was a matter of no PERSONAL CONCERN to poor WIGNELL, provided he had the immaculate aſſurance of the *Oſtler*, that it was all conſumed; and this, it is much to be regretted, is the invariable cuſtom of numbers, who deſtitute of the finer feelings, and perfect ſtrangers to the enlivening rays of HUMANITY, are open to no other ſenſation, than the predominant gratification of ſelf-preſervation.

Returning, however, to the management of ROAD HORSES, whether on a journey

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of continuance, or in their daily work at home, and reſident in their own ſtables, the ſame care and attention are equally neceſſary; I have ever (feelingly) found, SERVANTS at home require the ſame circumſpection and ſuperintendance as OSTLERS abroad; and happy that man, if *one there is*, who through life has had well-founded reaſon to be of a different opinion; if ſo, he is entitled to my beſt congratulations, for poſſeſſing ſo valuable a novelty.

Horſes of this deſcription, have every claim with others to the ſame regularity of ſtable diſcipline; they ſhould be at all times as equally prepared for a journey, as their ſuperiors for the chace; the ſaddle has as great a right to be complete and ſit eaſy, and the ſhoes to be as firm as the firſt hunter in the kingdom. They are at all times entitled to ſubſtantial dreſſing, good ſoft water, and proper exerciſe; their legs and heels to be well waſhed from dirt, and rubbed dry, in the winter ſeaſon; their feet to be picked, ſtopped, and hoofs oiled, at all ſeaſons of the year, and

and their hay and corn as methodically given, and as good in its kind (if poſſible to be obtained, which in moſt inns it is not) as to thoſe of ſuperior qualifications. And theſe peculiar attentions become the more neceſſary, if the owner, from that innate monition that is an ornament to human nature; or the prevalence of faſhion in external appearance, wiſhes him to move with pleaſure to himſelf, and credit to his maſter.

There are various matters of general concern, that require a little animadverſion: Firſt, the indiſcreet act of riding a horſe to the end of his journey in a ſtate of violent perſpiration, to be then led about in the hands of an Oſtler, till *he cools*; and this at all times of the year, without the leaſt reſpect to ſeaſons. The abſurdity is ſo palpable, under the defined effect of obſtructed perſpiration ſo repeatedly introduced, that an additional line is not required upon the ſubject: But that the inconſiſtency of ſuch practice may more forcibly affect thoſe who perſevere only from inadvertency, and others who are

are ſufficiently humble to imbibe inſtruction; let it be perfectly underſtood, that any man riding very faſt, without a ſubſtantial reaſon, is never by the *impartial ſpectator* taken for a KING or a *Conjuror*.

But leſt my unſupported opinion ſhould have no weight with ſuch HIGHFLYING gentry, I beg to advance a ſenſible remark of a neighbouring friend (very recently made) who, in ſerious converſation, aſſured me, "he never ſaw a man *gallop* into or out of a town, but he was clearly convinced, the horſe was not HIS OWN, or the rider was either *a fool* or *a madman*." To this very fair and candid inference, I am induced to add another corroboration of public opinion, upon what they conceive the moſt ſtriking proof of their courage and reſpectability. An old farmer within three miles of my own reſidence, having diſmiſſed a brother of the faculty who formerly attended his family, gave me this very conciſe reaſon for ſo doing; "I did not chuſe he ſhould attend my family any longer, for he always rides ſo *faſt*, I am ſure HE NEVER THINKS." Is it

poſſible,

poſſible, can it be hardly credible, that any rational compoſition, after giving theſe truths (that have fallen from old and experienced obſervers) a moment's reflection, will ever lay himſelf open to the ſeverity of ſarcaſms, or rather juſt contemptuous reproofs, that inſtantly conſtitute him a fool or a madman in the eyes of all the world? Under conſiderations of ſo much weight, I can have but little doubt that every *random traveller*, (not totally callous to the dictates of prudence and diſcretion) to whoſe rumination theſe hints may become ſubſervient; will, in future, diveſt himſelf of his ÆROSTATIC FUROR, and conclude his ſtage or journey by ſuch gradual declination of ſpeed for the laſt two or three miles, as may bring his horſe *tolerably cool* into the proper receptacle, without perſevering in a public proof of folly, always productive of danger and certain contempt.

As it is ſo evidently proper to ride a horſe very moderately at the concluſion of a journey, ſo it muſt prove equally neceſſary at the beginning. When a horſe is brought out

out of the ſtable with the ſtomach and inteſtines expanded with food and excrement, he cannot encounter RAPID EXERTION without much difficulty and temporary inconvenience, till the inteſtinal accumulation is conſiderably reduced and carried off by repeated evacuations; the work of digeſtion ſhould alſo be gradually effected to relieve the ſtomach, and take from the preſſure that muſt inevitably fall upon the lobes of the lungs, (reſtraining their natural elaſticity) under which the horſe muſt move with a load of diſquietude till ſuch weight is progreſſively removed.

The certainty of this fact every reader of no more than common ſagacity will diſcover, without further information from me; when I refer him to his recollection, for the great difficulty a horſe encounters, when put into HASTY ACTION, after receiving his portion of *food* and *water*, either at morning, noon, or night. From this remark directly branches another, equally worthy the conſideration of travellers; that is, the almoſt univerſal abſurdity of giving, or *rather ordering* their horſes a pail of cold water (uſually

in inn yards from the pump) in the morning, ſometimes before, (which is ridiculous in the extreme) but generally *immediately after* they have ſwallowed their corn; upon an erroneous ſuppoſition, that upon ſuch ACCUMULATED STUFFING, they will be enabled to ſurmount all the difficulties of a long and fatiguing journey.

Upon the inconſiſtency of this practice, I beg to appeal only to the unprejudiced remembrance of thoſe who have unthinkingly adopted it; whether horſes thus loaded, do not travel for ſome miles with the greateſt ſeeming labour and inconvenience? Admitting this poſition, without a ſingle exception, there cannot be a remaining doubt, but thoſe horſes, commencing their journey almoſt immediately after the ſtomach becomes expanded with the accuſtomed portion of hay and corn; had with much more propriety proceed a few miles gently on the road, and take their water at a ſoft STANDING POND, OR POOL, when the frame (by preceding evacuations) is more adapted to receive it. But even in this alternative, proper diſcrimination is abſolutely neceſſary; for horſes, either on a journey or

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in common exercise, should never be permitted to drink at all in *sharp shallow streams*, that run over a rusty gravel or through a black peaty soil; they are equally harsh, and seldom or never fail to have a severe effect upon the intestinal canal, in producing *fret* or *cholic* in a greater or less degree, and setting the coat by a sudden collapsion of the cutaneous pores in a few minutes after use.

To enumerate the minutiæ of MANAGEMENT, and bring it into a concise and single point of view, I heartily (and upon experimental proof of the advantage) recommend every person upon a journey, *whether long or short*, who takes up his temporary residence AT INNS, to make it his invariable rule TO SEE (by either himself or servant) that his horses are *dressed*, *fed*, and *watered*; their heels washed, feet stopped, hoofs oiled, and his equipments or apparatus, whether for riding or driving, examined *as to their safety*, every night or morning, if not at every stage; perhaps the latter may always prove the most eligible, for those who will compound at a very trifling degree of additional trou-

 ble,

ble, to avoid the poſſibility of unexpected danger or diſappointment.

To inſure the execution of all which, with the leſs reluctance on the part of your dependents, let it be ever predominant in the mind, "to do as you would be done unto;" LIBERALITY judiciouſly exerted is the beſt ſecurity for a chearful execution of your wiſhes. It ſhould be forcibly impreſſed upon the mind of every traveller, who wiſhes to become a gueſt of reſpectability, that "the labourer is worthy of his hire," and the hope of reward ſweetens labour. Upon the OSTLER, the WAITER, and the CHAMBER MAID, depends not only your comfort but your ſafety; and it is ſo completely in the *junction of the trio*, to render your armed chair eaſy, or replete with the thorns of diſquietude, that it will be not only neceſſary you treat them with becoming civility, diveſted of the diſguſting pride of perſonal oſtentation; but take care to beſtow ſuch *expreſſive marks* of your approbation, as will ſufficiently influence them to conſider you upon every future occaſion, more the domeſtic friend than the caſual ſtranger.

In

In pecuniary compenſations of this kind, it is ridiculous to be on the *penurious* ſide of gratification; a ſingle ſhilling very frequently, IN THEIR OPINIONS, conſtitutes the line of diſtinction between "A GENTLEMAN" and "A BLACKGUARD;" then who would encounter,

> "The inſolence of office, and the ſpurns
> "That patient merit of th' unworthy takes,"

when "a good name," with a profuſion of adulation, may be purchaſed for ſo paltry a conſideration. In ſhort, although the expences attendant upon the conveniences of ſuch receptacles conſtitute a tax of enormity; yet if you wiſh to inſure your own comfort, with the ſafety of your horſe, you have no alternative but to conſider them debts of honour that muſt be paid.

Before we bid adieu to the ſubject of road horſes, it cannot prove inapplicable to introduce a few remarks upon the inconſiſtency of waſhing the bodies of poſt and ſtage horſes all over with *cold water*, ſo ſoon as they are taken out of their harneſs, when in the higheſt ſtate of perſpiration. This cuſtom is be-

come ſo univerſal, that we perceive its adoption in almoſt every inn yard of eminence through the kingdom: That I may, however, avoid the accuſation of raſhly condemning a practice ſo numerouſly ſupported, I ſhall only ſtart ſuch matters of opinion for due deliberation, as may more materially concern thoſe intereſted in the conſequence.

That is, whether it is poſſible to believe, (after a moment's reflection) that a horſe who has gone ten, fifteen, or twenty miles with great exertion, and is brought in with the perſpirable matter paſſing off in ſtreams; can be compleatly plunged into a torrent of COLD WATER, without at leaſt the *very great probability* of deſtructive conſequences, from inſtantaneouſly cloſing the cuticular pores, and inevitably locking up the whole maſs of ſecreted perſpirative matter in a ſtate of temporary ſtagnation?

In this unnatural ſhock the conſtitution becomes the criterion of deciſion, the whole aſpect depending entirely upon the ſtate of the blood; if the horſe ſhould be luckily free from every trait of diſeaſe, and rather *below* than

above

above himſelf in condition, diſplaying a ſtate of purity in appearance, nature may under ſuch favourable circumſtances, prove herſelf adequate to the taſk of abſorption, and it may be again received into the circulation, no ill conſequences becoming perceptible: But ſhould the veſſels have been before overloaded, and the blood in a ſtate of VISCIDITY, very great danger muſt inevitably enſue; for the perſpirative matter thus preternaturally thrown upon the circulation, after acquiring by its ſtagnation a proportional tenacity, muſt render the whole ſyſtem liable to ſudden inflammation upon increaſing the blood's motion to the leaſt degree of velocity.

To the perſuaſive force of theſe probable effects, I have long ſince become the greater convert, by attentively adverting to the great number of THOSE HORSES that ſo ſuddenly drop dead upon the road, in the very next ſtage after having undergone ſuch unnatural ablution. To the rational or ſcientific obſerver, the cauſe of theſe deaths does not require a momentary inveſtigation; the ſyſtem of CIRCULATION, DERIVATION, REPLETION, and REVULSION are too well under-

ſtood to heſitate a moment in pronouncing ſuch ſudden deaths to be generally occaſioned by the means already aſſigned: The phyſical proceſs of which repulſion of perſpirative matter, and its effects upon various habits, are too minutely explained under the heads of different diſeaſes, in many parts of our former volume, to render farther diſquiſition in the leaſt neceſſary.

For my own part, ever open to intellectual improvement and conſtantly courting conviction, I moſt anxiouſly wiſh to be informed, through the channel of ſyſtematic impartiality, what can be *hoped*, *wiſhed*, or *expected* from a proceeding ſo entirely new; that cannot be more conſiſtently obtained by the utmoſt extent of friction properly perſevered in, with the uſual modes of WISPING, BRUSHING, and CLEANING, as in general uſe in almoſt every ſtable of uniformity in the kingdom. Nor can I at all conceive, as every thing that can be required relative to condition, labour, and appearance is to be effected by means diveſted of danger; why ſuch unjuſtifiable modes need be brought into practice, without a ſingle conſiſtent idea to juſtify their

their introduction for either improvement or utility.

Having formerly made some few observations upon the convenience of Public Repositories for the sale of horses by auction; I am induced, from a recent discovery, to add a single remark upon one of their *local laws*, indicative of great apparent probity in the proprietors of such receptacles, but replete with danger to those, who consign valuable horses for sale, should the rules so made be persevered in. Since the publication of my former volume, a friend (upon my making an occasional journey to London) begged me to execute the commission of selling a sound five year old mare at one of the most fashionable repositories in the metropolis. Reaching London the day preceding the sale, and giving my instructions, I returned in the morning, and after amusing myself upon different parts of the premises, accidently approached the PULPIT; upon which was affixed literary information, "that persons selling horses WARRANTED SOUND on *a Monday* were entitled to the money *on Friday*, and those so sold and warranted on *a Thursday* might receive payment

payment on the following *Monday*; if in the mean time ſuch horſe or horſes were not returned AS UNSOUND." The palpable abſurdity of propoſitions ſo ridiculous and unjuſt, inſtantly deranged all my premeditated plan of proceeding; for upon re-conſidering my commiſſion and the conditions of ſale, I found if the mare was ſold at the hammer, I had not only to make *a waiting jobb* of four days in London for payment, but the chance of A LAME MARE at the expiration of that time, inſtead of the money. For the purchaſer poſſeſſing the privilege of riding her for ſo long, might ſo do to any diſtance, or any degree of diſtreſs; and not approving her in *every action*, had only to confer the favour of *a blow* upon any particular part, to occaſion temporary pain and limping, that might juſtify a return under the plea of *unſoundneſs*, rendering the ſeller a dupe to the force of credulity and REPOSITORIAL INTEGRITY.

Under the weight of indignation, that naturally aroſe from ſerious reflection, upon ſuch an evident want of conſiſtency in mutual conditions that we are naturally to conclude, SHOULD fix the ſtandard of EQUI-

TY,

TY, and prevent unfair preponderation in favour of *either buyer or ſeller*; I returned the mare to the owner without expoſing her to ſale, with an invariable determination, never to ſell a horſe of even TEN POUNDS value, where the purchaſer may not only poſſeſs the privilege, but *ſufficient time* to render him a complete cripple, by hard riding or bad management, leaving me no conſolation but my own acquieſcence and extreme folly for repentance.

Taking into conſideration the very tedious and expenſive litigations that have been carried on in our courts of law, upon the ſubject of horſes proving *unſound* ſometime after ſale and delivery; I think it neceſſary (after proper reference to the definition of the word "SOUND," in the early part of the former volume) to introduce my own method of diſpoſal, where I conceive the horſe to be perfectly healthy and entirely ſound at the moment of delivery.

A learned Peer upon one bench, may, under ſanction of an eminent ſituation, and the advantage of coining *a new law* to anſwer

anſwer every particular purpoſe, dictatorially inſinuate to a jury, " that a horſe ſhould continue ſound for a certain number of *days*, *weeks*, or *months* after the purchaſe ;" and fix upon a ſtipulated ſum for what he has condeſcended to term " A SOUND PRICE ;" aſcertaining ſuch opinion an invariable criterion for all future deciſions in Weſtminſter Hall. Or a worthy BARON upon another, " that a man may *lawfully* correct his wife with a ſtick no bigger than his THUMB ;" but however accurate ſuch calculations may have been made by the very high and reſpectable authorities I allude to, they cannot be more free from caſual *exceptions*, than the great infinity of rules where EXCEPTIONS are always admitted.

However, as I confeſs myſelf one of thoſe never implicitly bound merely by *matter of opinion*, with an utter averſion to diſpoſing of horſes in Weſtminſter Hall, and experimentally convinced how very ſuddenly horſes *fall lame* without a viſible cauſe ; as well as how frequently they are attacked with acute diſeaſe and *rapidly carried off* without any particular reaſon to be collected EVEN FROM DISSEC-

TION :

TION: Under the influence of these predominant facts, I have long since adopted a certain invariable mode of disposal, that I conscientiously recommend, to prevent disgrace on one side, or dissatisfaction on the other.

My method is equally concise and decisive: If the horse is unequivocally SOUND, I am perfectly content to warrant him so, *even upon oath if required*, to the hour of DELIVERY, but not a *single hour* beyond it; for let it be held in memory, he is as liable to become *lame*, *diseased*, or a subject of *dissolution*, in that very hour, as in any other of his life.—I am equally willing to show all his paces with hounds, or on the road, (according to his appropriation) but not mounted by *a stranger*, of whose qualifications *in riding* I know as little as he does of my horse in *temper* and *action*; and consequently, from a want of congeniality between the natural disposition of *one*, and corresponding pliability of the *other*, the horse might be shown to palpable disadvantage. For it may be relied on, and accepted as a certain fact, that almost every horse will move in another

other ſtile, and diſplay a very different figure, when croſſed by one that he is accuſtomed to, who knows his tendencies, and the ſtate of his mouth, than under the hands of one to whom he is totally unknown; all which they have natural ſagacity to diſcover, in a much greater degree than generally believed by thoſe who have had but ſlender opportunities of attending to their perfections.

The TURF,

That has totally diſſipated ſome of the moſt ſplendid fortunes in a very few years, and left the poſſeſſors to lament in INDIGENCE, the fatal effects of their credulity, and the folly of infection; is entitled to ſuch few remarks as appertain to the prevalence of a faſhion that has, within a very ſhort ſpace of years, involved not only numbers of the moſt EMINENT CHARACTERS, but *hundreds of inferior*, in the general ruin. For the laſt half century, this rage has been ſo very predominant that great

great numbers even of the commercial world could not withſtand the force of temptation; to have a horſe or two IN TRAINING has been an object of the higheſt ambition, to the gratification of which, every other proſpect or purſuit has been rendered ſubſervient. The contagion has been in its effects ſo deluſive, that Lottery Office Keepers and Pawnbrokers have been racing againſt the horſes of Peers of the realm, to the inevitable accumulation of DEBTS, the defrauding of CREDITORS, and the promoting of BANKRUPTCIES. This is not calculated to create ſurpriſe, when it is not only recollected in rumination, but confirmed by time and experience, that nothing but a fortune of immenſity can ſtand againſt the enormous expence of BREEDING and TRAINING; the fluctuating uncertainty of the produce; and laſtly, what is ſtill more to be dreaded, the *innate villainy* and *ſtudied deception* of the ſubordinate claſſes, with whom your HONOUR and PROPERTY are eventually entruſted; and upon whoſe *caprice, intereſt, villainy, or integrity,* you muſt unavoidably depend to carry your purpoſes into execution.

However

However ſtrange and unpromiſing this delineation may appear to the young and inexperienced ſportſman, (who having no guile in his own diſpoſition, does not ſuſpect it in others) yet the projected villainies are ſo numerous, and refined to ſo many different degrees of deception; that in the preſent ſtate of *ſporting purification*, it is almoſt impoſſible for any man to train and run a horſe, or make a ſingle bet upon their ſucceſs, without falling into one of the innumerable plots that will be laid for his deſtruction. Excluſive of the experimental proofs we ſhall have occaſion to introduce in corroboration of this remark, it may not be out of point to obſerve, that a late noble Lord, within my own memory, was ſo well convinced of this fact, that when in the abſolute poſſeſſion of a STABLE OF WINNERS, he totally relinquiſhed a purſuit of ſo much pleaſure, and ſold off his ſtud, rather than continue the ſtanding prey of premeditated plunder; convinced by long and attentive experience, no moderate fortune or common ſagacity could ſhield him from the joint rapacity of dependents, that were to participate

cipate in the conſtant depredation upon an individual.

To this prudent deciſion, he was juſtly influenced by the eagerly expected return of his training groom from a ſummer expedition, with three running horſes of ſome eminence; that had in their excurſion of little more than four months, obtained poſſeſſion of ſeven fifty pound plates. But after having received the different prizes, and diſcharged all contigent expences; this FAITHFUL STEWARD, by the dint of arithmetical proficiency, brought his Maſter in debtor, *upon the balance*, upwards of fifty pounds. This impoſition (or rather robbery) too palpable not to be diſcovered, his Lordſhip, with a degree of liberality ſuperior to perſonal altercation, immediately obliterated, and then declared his inflexible determination to diſcontinue both BREEDING and TRAINING, a reſolution he ſteadily perſevered in to the end of his life; nor has it been renewed by either of his ſucceſſors, though there are in the family manſion, as excitements, ſeveral capital paintings of many of the firſt horſes of

their time, that had been bred by their different predecessors.

This judicious resignation proved only a voluntary prelude to the wonderful annihilation of property that has compulsively followed with those of less prudence, penetration, or resolution; in corroboration of which, we are prevented by delicacy alone, from an enumeration of even the initials only of the names of many eminent and ennobled characters, formerly possessed of princely fortunes) who now *subsist merely* upon the scanty savings from the wreck of indiscretion: Stripped of the numerous stud and pompous appendages, to which their titles were blazoned forth in various lists, of "The famous high-bred running cattle," as well as the annual "Racing Calendar." Some few of the Right Honourable Adventurers have escaped the "general ruin," and fortunately retain their possessions and undiminished studs; but they are so constantly contracting in number, that they serve only to establish the admitted exception to rules, in which we may

may fairly infer their immenſe properties to have operated as preventatives.

This ſport, that has for many years been ſo exceedingly prevalent, is at length declining very faſt among the middle and inferior claſſes of people; and of this diminution the annual contribution of two guineas each to government is a ſufficient proof, when it is known, that all the horſes that RUN, PAID, or RECEIVED FORFEIT, in the united kingdoms laſt year, did not exceed eight hundred: A number that does not much ſurpaſs the averaged half of horſes ſupported in training ſome few years paſt; a circumſtance that requires little farther corroboration, than the numerous plates advertiſed in different parts, for the two or three laſt years, that were never run for, "*for want of horſes.*"

This falling off may be juſtly attributed to a combination of obſtacles; the conſtantly encreaſing expence of TRAINING, the miniſterial TAX, the profeſſional duplicity (or rather **family deception*) of RI-

* Gamblers are known by the appellation of "The Black Legged Family."

DERS, the heavy expenditure unavoidably attendant upon travelling from one ſeat of ſport to another; the very great probability of *accidents* or *breaking down* in running, with a long train of uncertainties, added to the infamous practices of the "Black Legged" fraternity, in perpetual intercourſe and aſſociation with both TRAINERS and RIDERS; leaving the caſual ſportſman a very ſlender chance of winning *one* bet in *ten*, where any of this *worthy ſociety* are concerned; which they generally are by ſome means, through the medium of occaſional emiſſaries, mercenary agents, or ſtable dependents, in conſtant pay for the proſtitution of every truſt that has been implicitly repoſed in them by their too credulous employers.

Such incontrovertible truths may perhaps appear matters of mere conjecture and ſpeculation to the young and inexperienced, who will undoubtedly believe with reluctance, what is ſo evidently calculated to diſcourage the predominance of inclination; and not having explored the regions of diſcovery, they may be induced to flatter themſelves with an opinion, that ſuch repreſentation is a deluſion

intended

intended much more to entertain than communicate inſtruction. However, that the buſineſs may be elucidated in ſuch way, as will prove moſt applicable to the nature of the caſe and the patience of the reader; it will be neceſſary to afford their practices ſuch explanation, as may render the facility of execution more familiar to the imagination of thoſe, whoſe ſituations in life, or contracted opportunities, may have prevented their being at all informed upon the ſubject in agitation.

That theſe acts of villainy may be the better underſtood, it becomes applicable to obſerve, that it is the perſevering practice of THE FAMILY, to have four, five, or ſix known good runners in their poſſeſſion; though for the convenience and greater certainty of public depredation, they paſs as the diſtinct property of different members: But this is by no means the caſe, for they are as much the joint ſtock of *the party*, as is the ſtock in trade of the firſt firm in the city. The ſpeed and bottom of theſe horſes are as accurately known to each individual of the brotherhood, and they are in general (without an unexpected accident which ſome-

 times

times happens) as well convinced *before ſtarting*, whether they can beat their competitors, as if the race was abſolutely determined.

This, however, is only the neceſſary groundwork of deception, upon which every part of the ſuperſtructure is to be raiſed: As they experimentally know how little money is to be got by *winning*, they ſeldom permit that to become an object of momentary conſideration; and being no ſlaves to the ſpecious deluſions of HONOUR, generally make their market by the *reverſe*, but more particularly where they are the leaſt expected *to loſe*: That is, they ſucceed beſt in their general depredations by *loſing* where their horſes are the favourites at high odds after a heat or two, when expected to *win to a certainty*, which they as PRUDENTLY take care to prevent.

This buſineſs, to inſure ſucceſs and emolument, is carried on by ſuch a combination of villainy; ſuch a ſympathetic chain of horrid machination, as it is much to be lamented could ever enter the minds of degenerate men for the purpoſes of deſtruction.

The

The various modes of practice and imposition are too numerous and extensive to admit of general explanation; the purport of the present *epitome* or contracted description being intended to operate merely as a guard to those, who are totally unacquainted with the *infamy* of the party, whose MERITS we mean to describe.

The principal (that is, the ostensible proprietor of the horse for the day) is to be found in the centre of the "BETTING RING," previous to the starting of the horse, surrounded by the sporting multitude; amongst whom his emissaries place themselves to perform their destined parts in the acts of villainy regularly carried on upon these occasions; but more particularly at all the meetings within thirty or forty miles of the metropolis. In this conspicuous situation, he forms a variety of PRETENDED BETS with his confederates, in favour of his own horse; such bait the unthinking bystanders immediately swallow, and proceeding upon this shew of confidence, *back him themselves*: These offers are immediately accepted to any amount by the emissaries before-mentioned,

 and

and is in fact no more than a palpable robbery; as the horse, it is already determined BY THE FAMILY, is *not to win*, and the money *so betted* is as certainly their own as if already decided.

This part of the business being transacted, a new scene of tergiversation becomes necessary; the horse being mounted, the rider is whispered by the *nominal owner* to win the first heat if he can; this it is frequently in his power *to do easy*, when he is consequently backed at still *increased odds* as the expected winner; all which proposed bets are instantly taken by the emissaries, or rather principals *in the firm*: When, to shew us the versatility of FORTUNE, and the vicissitudes of the turf, he very *unexpectedly* becomes A LOSER, or perhaps *runs out of the course*, to the feigned disappointment and affected sorrow of the owner; who publicly declares he has lost so many "score pounds upon the race," whilst his confederates are individually engaged in collecting *their certainties*, previous to the CASTING UP STOCK, at the general rendezvous in the evening.

To

To this plan there is a direct alternative; if there should be no chance (from his being sufficiently a favourite) of laying on money in this way; they then take the longest odds they can obtain that he wins, and regulate or vary their betting by the event of each heat; winning if they can, or *losing to a certainty*, as best suits the bets they have laid; which is accurately known by a pecuniary consultation between the heats. From another degree of undiscoverable duplicity their greater emoluments arise: For instance, letting a horse of capital qualifications WIN and LOSE almost alternately at different places, as may be most applicable to the betting for the day; dependent entirely upon the state of public opinion, but to be ultimately decided by the latent villainy of the parties more immediately concerned.

These, like other matters of magnitude, are not to be rendered infallible, without the necessary agents; that, like the smaller wheels of a curious piece of mechanism, contribute their portion of power to give action to the whole. So true is the ancient adage, "birds of a feather flock together," that

that RIDERS may be ſelected, who will prove inviolably faithful to the dictates of this party; that *could not* or *would not* reconcile an honourable attachment to the firſt nobleman in the kingdom. Theſe are the infernal deceptions and acts of villainy upon THE TURF, that have driven noblemen, gentlemen, and ſportſmen of honour, from what are called *country courſes* to their aſylum of NEWMARKET; where, by the excluſion of THE FAMILY from their clubs, and their horſes from their SUBSCRIPTIONS, SWEEPSTAKES, or MATCHES, they render themſelves invulnerable to the *often envenomed* ſhafts of the moſt premeditated (and in general well executed) villainy.

Without entering into a tedious deſcription of the many poſſible means by which depredations are committed upon the property of individuals, whom faſhion or inclination prompts to ſport their money upon ſuch occaſions; yet to render theſe villainous practices more familiar to the minds of thoſe who may incredulouſly doubt the poſſibility of deceptions of this kind, inſtances muſt be adduced to eſtabliſh the certainty; of

of which there has been too many public proofs, to require the ſpecification of any particular fact for the purpoſe. It may ſuffice to obſerve, it is univerſally known ſuch villainies have been repeatedly diſcovered; where the owners have been notoriouſly diſqualified by advertiſements, from ever running their horſes, and thoſe riders from riding, at the places where they have been ſo juſtly ſtigmatized, and ſo properly held in the utmoſt contempt.

Upon ſo precarious a tenure does every ſporting man of ſpirit retain his hope of ſucceſs, that I will be bound to verify the aſſertion by innumerable inſtances; that no man living can BREED, TRAIN, and RUN his horſes to inſure even a probability of emolument, by any honourable means whatever. Noblemen and Gentlemen of immenſe fortunes, to whom it is an amuſement, and who never know the want of annual receipts, in a repetition of thouſands; may indulge themſelves in a gratification of their predominant wiſhes, and feel no ill effect from a variety of loſſes, or perpetual expenditure.

It

It is not ſo with thoſe of inferior property and ſituation; as may be plainly perceived in the great number who become rotationally infected with the experiment of training for *one ſummer*, but never *repeat it*. This is not at all to be wondered at, when we recollect, that after all the expence, trouble, and anxiety, you have expoſed yourſelf to, for the *very diſtant* chance of obtaining a fifty pound plate or two, with various deductions; you are at laſt under the unavoidable neceſſity of reſigning the bridle into the hands of a man, who may perhaps prove one of *the greateſt raſcals* among the groupe we have already deſcribed. For when thus ſelected for ſo important a truſt, it may ſo happen, *you* have never ſeen him before; nor may *he* ever ſee *you* again: On the contrary, he may be connected with a little hoſt of colleagues upon the courſe, with whom he is perpetually concerned in acts of reciprocal kindneſs and joint depredation.

From ſuch dangerous delegation, you can form (upon reflection) no hope of ſucceſs; unleſs your horſe, by the rider's *endeavour*

to

to win, ſhould prove productive of bets, beſt ſuiting the convenience of the FAMILY. However, to render this perfectly clear, let us confirm the fact by a ſtatement not to be miſunderſtood. Suppoſe the owner of a horſe compenſates a rider, that he engages from an idea of his ſuperior ability, reputed integrity, or upon recommendation, with a promiſe of five guineas certain to ride according to inſtructions *for each heat*, and a conditional *five* or *ten* extra, if he wins. What can be the utmoſt emolument to him by winning? Why, as before ſtated, either TEN or FIFTEEN guineas! While, on the contrary, if the horſe is of character and qualifications, and the odds run a little in his favour for the laſt heat; the induſtrious efforts of the rider's confederates, who are taking thoſe very odds *laid upon the horſe*, (that it is already pre-determined ſhall loſe) they accumulate and divide much larger ſums *to a certainty*, without the chance of loſing a ſingle guinea.

I ſhall not deſcend to an enumeration of a variety of practices that render plunder

equally

equally ſafe from detection; as giving a horſe water in the night previous to the day of running; or throwing *a mild cathartic*, or *ſtrong diurectic* into the body, to produce indiſpoſition, and prevent the POSSIBILITY of a horſe WINNING, when it is determined by the CABINET COUNSEL, that it is for the *general good* he muſt LOSE. If any rational being, any generous unſuſpecting ſportſman, or any juvenile noviciate, has the moſt ſlender doubt remaining of theſe practices, let me render the matter deciſive, and bring it to a neceſſary concluſion, by a ſingle queſtion that will not require a moment's diſcuſſion in reply.

By what other means than thoſe already deſcribed between the FAMILY and THE RIDERS, have the numbers that are well known, and that we conſtantly ſee in the *height of buſineſs* in every populous betting ring, ariſen to a ſtate of opulence? What can have exalted men who were bankrupts in trade; poſt-chaiſe drivers, hair dreſſers, waiters, footmen, nay, the loweſt claſs of gamblers, (that abſolutely

ſolutely raiſed contributions among the moſt wretched, (by even the infamous practices of "*pricking in the belt*," and "*huſtling in the hat*,") to their PHAETONS, *horſes in training*, and conſpicuous ſeats in the firſt faſhionable BETTING STANDS, (among the moſt eminent characters in the kingdom) but ſuch acts of premeditated and deep laid villainy, as no man living can be guarded againſt, if he embarks or ventures his property amongſt *a ſet of ruffians*, that are not only a notorious peſt to ſociety, but a dangerous nuiſance and obſtruction to one of the nobleſt diverſions our kingdom has to boaſt.

Under ſuch numerous diſadvantages, it muſt prove palpably clear to every obſerver, that none but ſportſmen with fortunes of the firſt magnitude, can conſcientiouſly enjoy the pleaſure of BREEDING, TRAINING, and RUNNING their horſes, without the perpetual dread of approaching ruin; in fact, of this ſuch a repetition of proofs have tranſpired within the laſt twenty years, that the leaſt deſcriptive corroboration becomes totally unneceſſary.

For

For my own part, I am decisively and experimentally convinced, no man in moderate circumstances, who cannot afford a daily prostitution of property for the incessant gratification of dependent sharks on one hand, and the perpetual supply of deceptive villains on the other; can ever expect to become the winner of MATCH, PLATE, OR SWEEPSTAKES, unless he happily possesses the means and situation to go through the business of *training* under his own roof, and *riding his own horse*; or fixing firm reliance upon some faithful domestic properly qualified, totally unconnected with the contaminating crew, whose conduct we have so accurately delineated, without an additional ray of exaggeration. But as my declaration of *proof* collected from EXPERIMENAL CONVICTION, may not be generally accepted as sufficiently authentic, without some more powerful evidence than bare superficial assertion; I must beg permission to conclude these observations, upon the present state and various impositions of THE TURF, with the communication of a few personal occurrences, that I doubt not will contribute

some

ſome weight to the opinions I have ſubmitted to public conſideration.

In the ſummer of ſeventeen hundred ſeventy-five, I ran a match of four miles, carrying twelve ſtone, (with a gelding got by BROOMSTICK) againſt a mare, the property of a gentleman of conſiderable fortune in the county of Eſſex, for fifty guineas. His extenſive property was conſpicuous in an elegant manſion, a paddock of deer, a pack of harriers, and a liberal ſubſcription to a neighbouring pack of fox hounds. That we might be equally free from even a chance of the deception in *riding* I have juſt deſcribed; we truſted to our own abilities in jockeyſhip, for a deciſion in which *I conceived* our honour and property were EQUALLY concerned. The match, however, was decided againſt him with *perfect eaſe*, upon which he loſt ſome conſiderable bets; but in the mortification of his diſappointment, affecting to believe it was won with much difficulty, he propoſed to run the ſame match on that day fortnight, upon my conſenting to give him five pounds, or, in other words, to reduce

 his

his weight to *eleven ſtone nine.* This was inſtantly acceded to, and many bets made in conſequence, among our neighbouring friends; but previous to the day of running, having accepted an invitation to his houſe, he there *moſt honourably* offered to pay me the five and twenty guineas, *before the race,* if "I would obligingly condeſcend to let him WIN." I have a firm and anxious hope, that every ſportſman of integrity, whoſe feelings vibrate in uniſon with my own, and who reads this propoſition with the indignation it is recited; will do me the juſtice to conſider it more proper, that he ſhould *conceive,* than becoming in me to *relate,* the particulars of my behaviour upon ſuch occaſion. It muſt ſuffice to ſay, I rode over the courſe without a companion; and as the match was made PLAY or PAY, received the payment for my conſolation. There are numerous and very powerful reaſons, why I forbear to make a ſingle remark upon this buſineſs; leaving it entirely, with its infinity of *annual ſimilitudes,* to the different impreſſions it may make upon the

PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLES of the different readers to whom it will become ſubject.

This was only a ſingle attack, conſequently parried with much greater eaſe, than when aſſailed by an almoſt incredible combination of villainy, in running a match for the ſame ſum four years ſince, upon one of the moſt populous and faſhionable courſes in the kingdom. But having *then*, as *before*, the ſame invariable opinion of the duplicity practiſed in TRAINING and RIDING, I had never permitted the mare out of my poſſeſſion, or from under my own inſpection, from the hour ſhe was matched to run; or intended her to be rode by any other perſon, than a lad of my own, that (literally ſpeaking) I initiated in ſtable management and *trained* with the mare for the purpoſe.

Thus entrenched by prudence, and fortified by experience, it was impoſſible for thoſe concerned againſt me, either by their numerous emiſſaries, or induſtrious adherents, to obtain the requiſite intelligence of *trials*,

 ſweats,

ſweats, or in fact any neceſſary information, by which their intentional villainy could be promoted with a probability of ſucceſs. But as adventurers of this complexion are never diſconcerted by trifling obſtacles, it will create no ſmall degree of ſurpriſe, to thoſe not at all appriſed of the various ſhifts, inventions, and ſchemes of villainy in conſtant practice upon the TURF; to be informed of the innumerable and remote contrivances, eternally adopted for the promotion of robbery and depredation upon others, as well as the execution of their intents upon me, which, however, very fortunately did not ſucceed.

On the day of running, having removed my mare from my own ſtable to a recluſe and convenient houſe within two miles of the courſe; locked her up by five in the morning, and conſigned my lad to his pillow, (to prevent either *converſation* or *communication,*) I was almoſt immediately enquired for by *a jockey* of ſome eminence, whoſe ability is held in tolerable eſtimation. Being juſt then in the act of taking breakfaſt, and the parlour door having been left

left a very little open, I could juſt diſtinguiſh the parties; and diſtinctly heard the enquiring rider ſay to his companion, "*If he'll let me ride her, I'll do him by G—d.*" "Nay, then I have an eye upon you," was a quotation that ſtruck me with the full force of the author. Luckily ſhielded with this confidence, I philoſophically made my appearance; when this *honeſt*, *worthy*, *immaculate* type of TURF INTEGRITY, made an apology for the liberty of troubling me, "but he underſtood I had a mare to run that day; that the oppoſite party had not uſed him well in ſome previous concerns; he wiſhed *to be revenged*, and with my permiſſion he would ride the mare GRATIS, in which he would exert his greateſt ability, and did not doubt but he ſhould be able to beat them *out of the world*."

I was thankful to a degree of HUMILIATION for the liberality of his offer, perfectly conſcious of his kindneſs, and voluntary attention to *my intereſt*; but I was obſtinately determined to ſtand or fall by the effect of my own management, under

 the

the additional disadvantage of a young and inexperienced rider.

Previous to the day of running, I had repeatedly and carefully instructed my own lad in every minutiæ it became necessary to have in constant remembrance; naturally concluding to what an infinity of attacks and deep laid schemes he would be eternally open previous to the hour of starting. I had particularly cautioned him, not to deliver *a weight* out of his pocket from the time of weighing to his return to the scale after the race, upon any account whatever; not to *pull up* till he was considerably past the *winning post*; nor to make even an effort to *dismount* till I led his horse up *to the scale*. All these very fortunately proved propitious precautions; for not one of the whole but was individually attacked, with a well supported hope and unremitting expectation, of rendering us dupes to an established course of villainy, that it is to be regretted so frequently succeeds.

When just going to start, a real friend, or rather *an honest man*, who had that moment heard the secret transpire in *a whisper*, came and

and told him they had weighed him, *ten ſtone four pounds*, placing *four pounds* in his pockets more than he was entitled to carry; adviſing him to ride up to the ſcale and inſiſt upon being re-weighed; but adhering cloſely to my inſtructions, he refuſed to diſmount, or relinquiſh a ſingle weight, and abſolutely won his match with *four pounds* more than he ſhould have carried. Fifty yards before he reached the winning poſt, one of the party clamorouſly commanded him *to pull up*, ſaying, the other "*would never overtake him*;" the moment I had his horſe by the bridle leading him to ſcale, another vociferouſly enjoined him "*to get off and not diſtreſs the mare*;" either of which, not previouſly guarded againſt, but inadvertently complied with, muſt have inevitably loſt the very conſiderable ſum I had depending upon the event,

But to confirm beyond every ſhadow of doubt this horrid ſcene of deliberate villainy and deception; while the mare was rubbing down at a ſmall diſtance from the courſe, after winning the race and receiving the ſtakes, a perſon came and made enquiry, whether "a jockey had not been with me that morning

ing early, making an offer to ride my mare, GRATIS?" Upon my anſwering in the affirmative, he aſſured me I had a very narrow eſcape; for "he had ſat the preceding evening in an adjoining room, divided only by a deal partition, and heard the entire plan formed by the party concerned; that if I conſented to let him ride, my *mare was to loſe*, and he was TO BE REWARDED."

However trifling or ſuperfluous a recital of theſe circumſtances may appear to the well informed and long experienced ſportſman; they are no leſs neceſſary with the juvenile adventurer, to eſtabliſh the exiſtence of facts, and expoſe the various means of almoſt inexplicable *duplicity*, *invention*, and *impoſition*, by which the OPULENT, LIBERAL, and INCONSIDERATE are ſo frequently reduced to a ſtate of repentant deſtruction. Their introduction will conſequently ſerve to render incontrovertible the proof of ſuch practices; and to demonſtrate the *folly* and *danger* of encountering ſo great a complication of deliberate villainy and ſyſtematick depredation, where there muſt ever remain ſo confuſed a proſpect of extrication, with either

SUCCESS

SUCCESS OF EMOLUMENT. Under the influence of ſuch reflections as muſt naturally ariſe from a knowledge of, and retroſpective alluſion to, ſuch incredible acts of villainy in conſtant practice; every reader will be enabled to decide, whether it can poſſibly tend to the promotion of his PLEASURE, INTEREST OF SAFETY, to ſuſpend any part of his property by ſuch doubtful dependencies. Conſcious of no motive for the expoſure of ſuch abſtruſe deception and complicated deſtructive villainy, but an anxious contribution to the GENERAL GOOD; I am moſt earneſtly induced to hope the PURITY OF INTENTION may lay ſome claim to the ſtamp of public approbation, however deficient my ſlender abilities may have proved in the EXECUTION.

FINIS.

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